

"The story is a sprawling epic with beautiful imagery."
— Comic Watch

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS



**AARON
McGUINNESS
MEDINA
CURIEL**

THE FINAL HOST

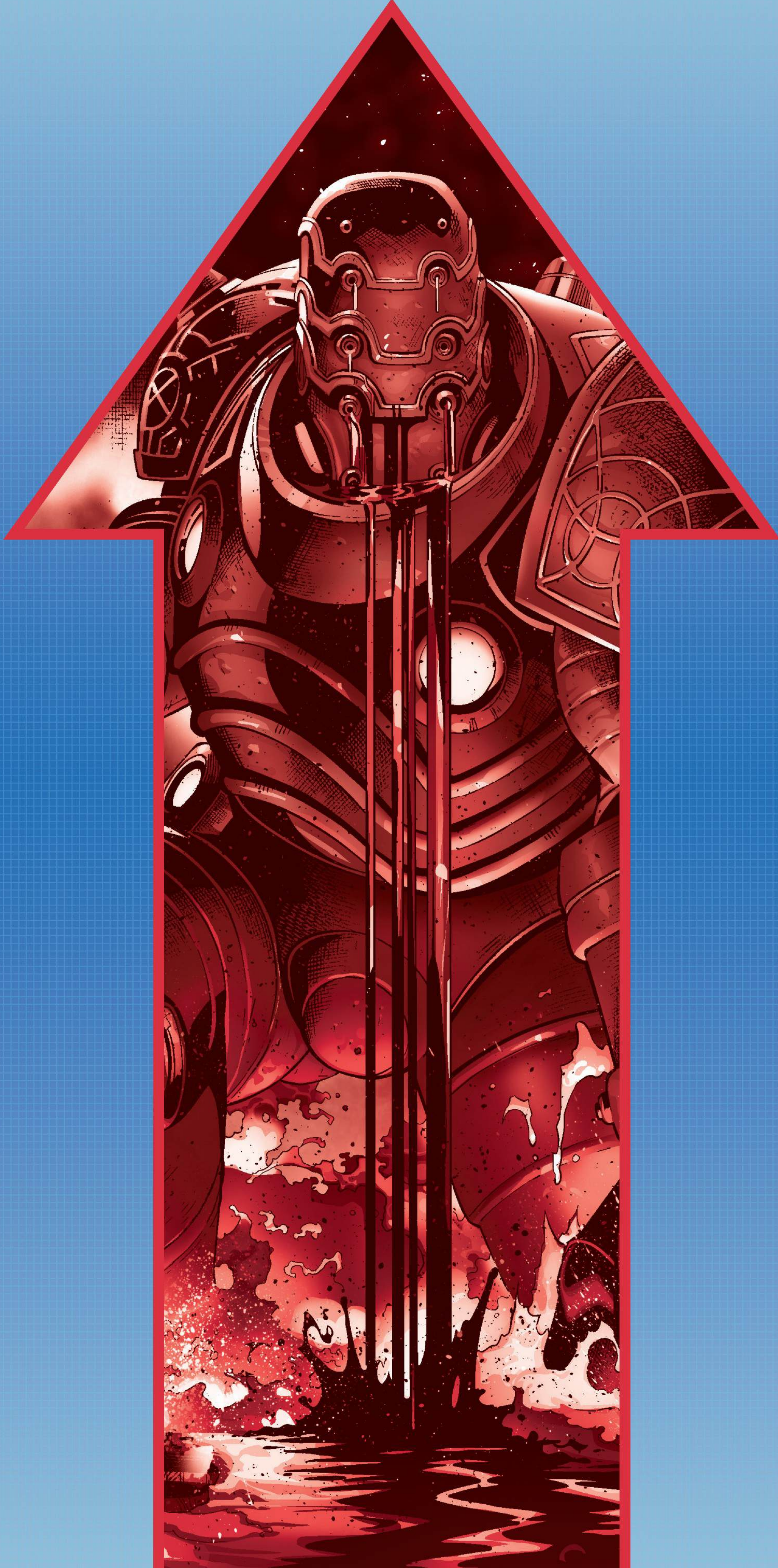
MARVEL



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST

THE

THE FINAL HOST



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES **THE AVENGERS** **THE FINAL HOST**

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FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2018 (AVENGERS/CAPTAIN AMERICA)

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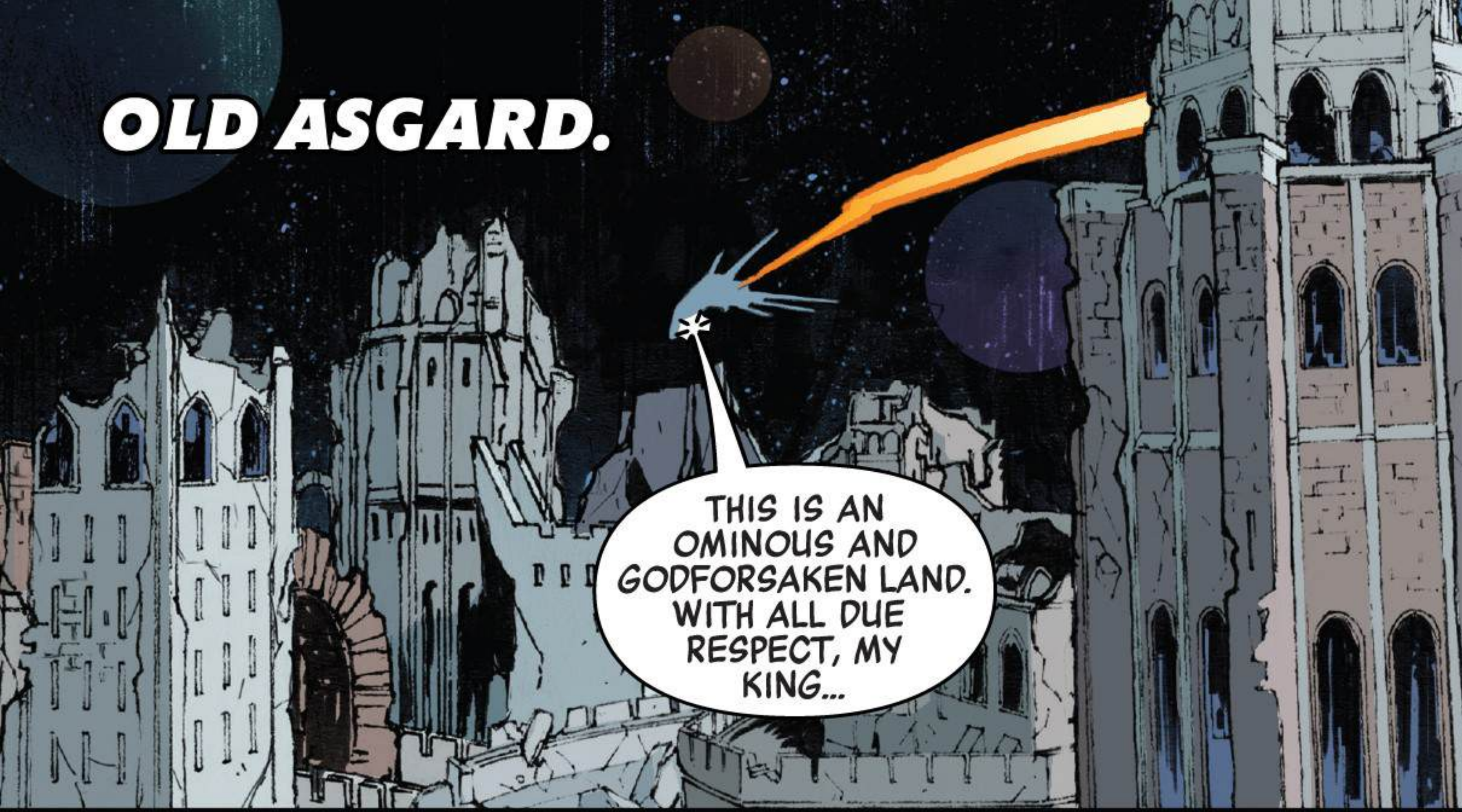
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FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2018 A MILLION YEARS IN THE MAKING



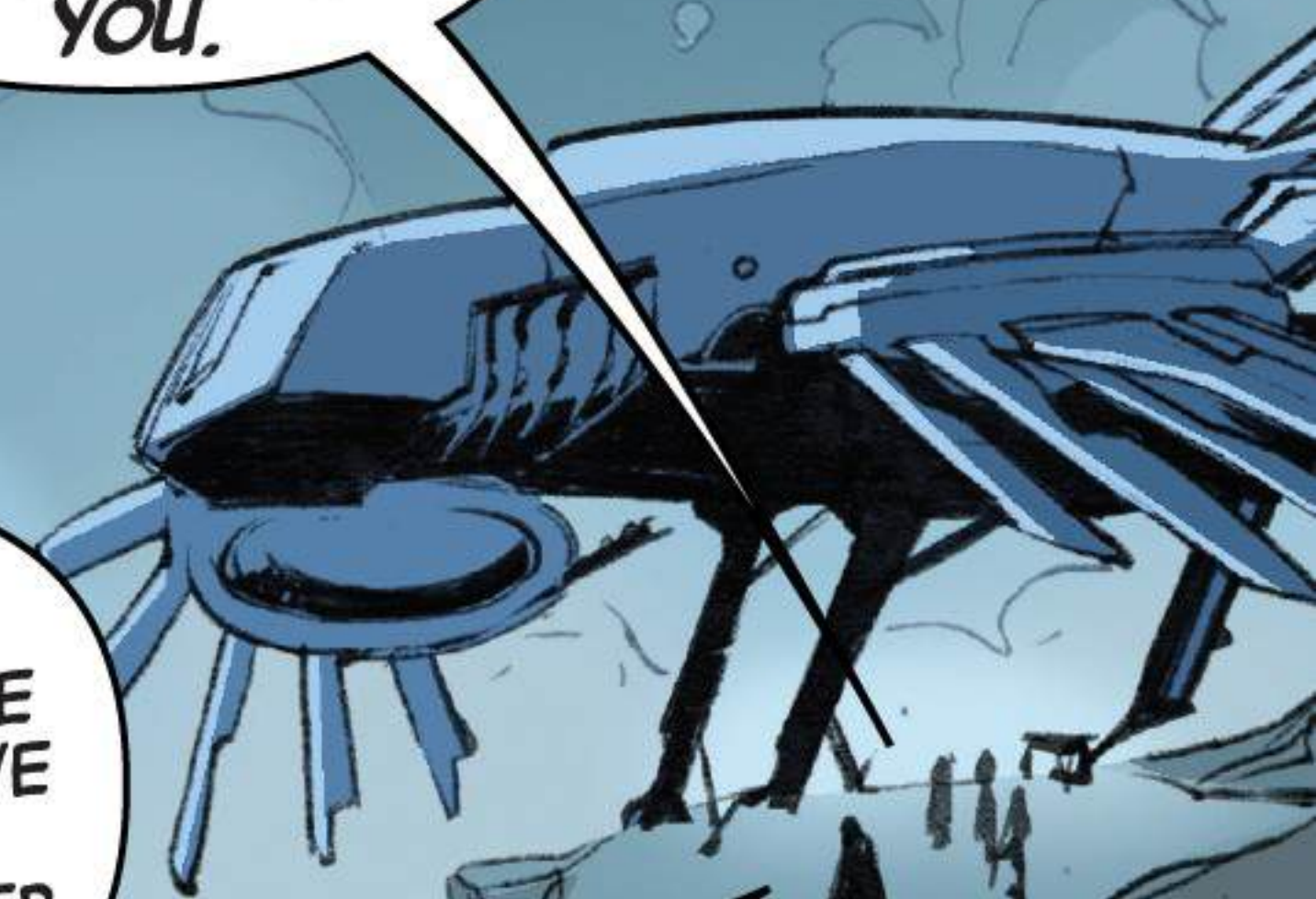
OLD ASGARD.



THIS IS AN
OMINOUS AND
GODFORSAKEN LAND.
WITH ALL DUE
RESPECT, MY
KING...

...INSTEAD OF GUARDING
THE SHIP, WE SHOULD
BE GUARDING
YOU.

THE
INVITATION
SAID TO COME
ALONE. AND WE
WOULD NOT
WANT TO ANGER
OUR HOST.



"THIS LAND MAY BE
FORSAKEN, BUT
BELIEVE ME...IT IS
NOT GODFORSAKEN.

"AND ITS GROUND
SHOULD NOT BE
TREAD UPON LIGHTLY.



"NOT EVEN
BY KINGS."

YOU
CAME.

YOU SENT
A **TALKING RAVEN**
TO MY HOME. HOW
COULD I DENY SUCH
A REQUEST...

...FROM **ODIN**,
THE ALL-FATHER
OF ASGARD?

ALAS,
ASGARD IS NOT
WHAT IT ONCE WAS.
AND NEITHER
AM I.

LET'S
HOPE YOU
ARE, LORD OF
WAKANDA.

YOU TALK
AS IF WE'VE MET
BEFORE. I BELIEVE I
WOULD REMEMBER
SUCH A MEETING.

I'VE MET
MANY OF YOU
PANTHER KINGS
OVER THE EONS, MORE
THAN MY AGING
OMNISCIENCE CAN EVEN
RECALL, GOING ALL THE
WAY BACK TO WHEN
YOUR KINGDOM WAS
STILL NAUGHT BUT
A CAVE.

I'VE NOTICED
THAT YOU ALL
SEEM TO HAVE
ONE TRAIT IN
COMMON.

A FIERCE DEVOTION TO
PROTECTING YOUR PEOPLE
FROM ALL OUTSIDE FORCES,
TO THE POINT WHERE
OTHERS LABEL YOU COLD
AND STUBBORN, MERCILESS
AND WARLIKE, FOREBODING
AND PROFOUNDLY
DANGEROUS.

IN OTHER
WORDS, I'VE
ALWAYS **LIKED**
YOU.

I'VE RECENTLY
FAILED IN MY
DUTY TO
PROTECT MY
OWN
KINGDOM.

THE GRAND
AND GOLDEN
ASGARDIA WAS LAID
TO WASTE BY THE
GOD-HATING BEAST
KNOWN AS THE
MANGOG.

MANY
ASGARDIANS
SUFFERED. AND NOW
THE GODS LIVE IN
SQUALOR AMID THE
RUINS OF OUR
ANCESTRAL
LANDS.

BUT ALL
OF THAT IS
NOTHING, I
FEAR...

...COMPARED
TO WHAT IS
COMING.

WHICH IS
WHY I'VE CALLED
YOU HERE, **BLACK
PANTHER**.

I SHOULD
HAVE LISTENED
TO YOUR **ANCESTOR**,
ONE MILLION YEARS
AGO. I SHOULD HAVE
SHOWN **MERCY**.
IF I HAD...



...PERHAPS THE FINAL HOST WOULD SHOW SOME TO US IN TURN.



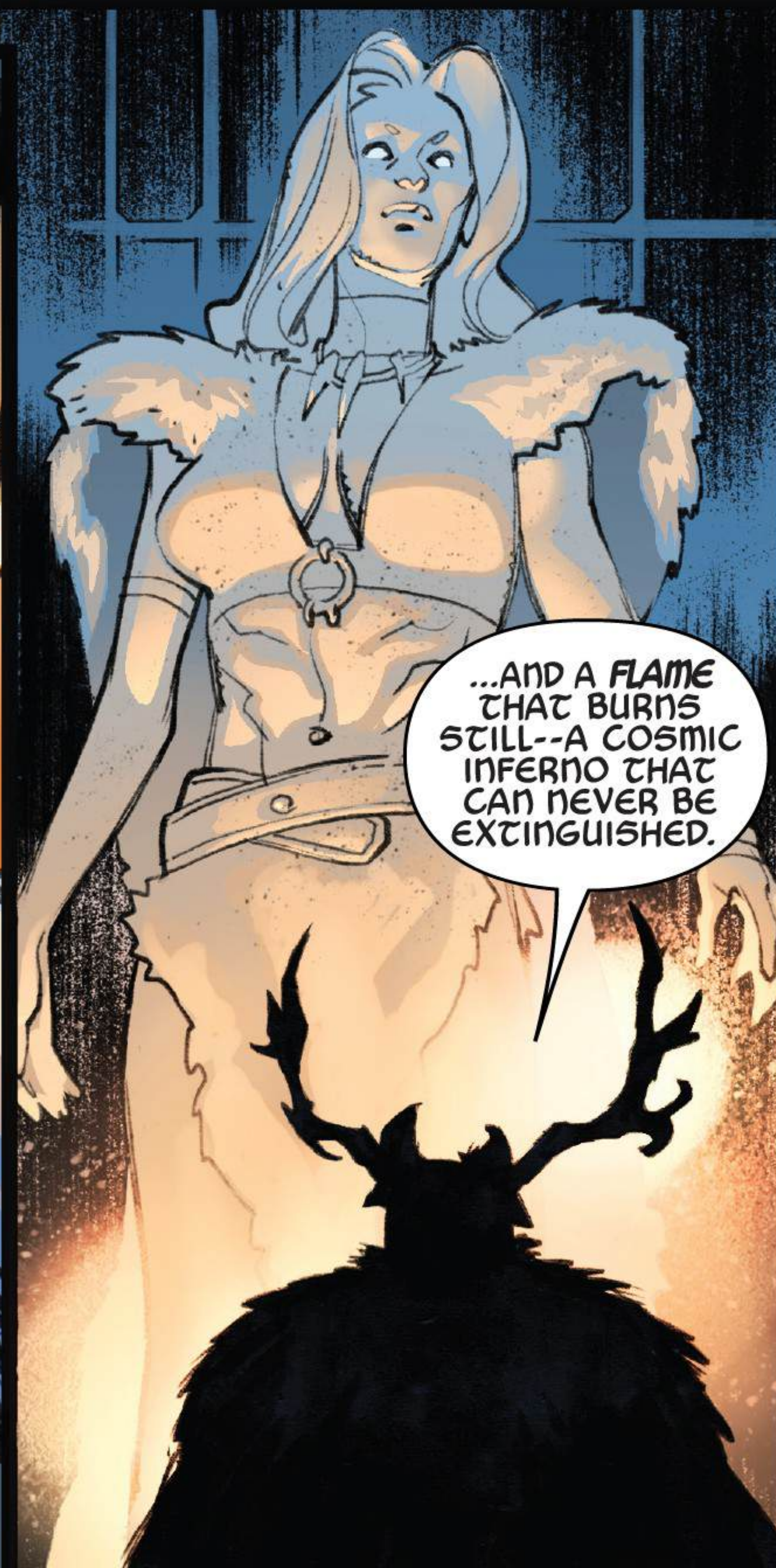
BUT I FEAR THE TIME FOR MERCY HAS LONG SINCE PASSED.

ONE MILLION YEARS? BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. THERE WERE NO HOMO SAPIENS ONE MILLION YEARS AGO.

PERHAPS NOT. BUT THERE WERE GODS.

AND CAVEMEN WITH THE POWERS OF GODS.

AND AN INFURIATING WIZARD. A DRAGON PRINCESS FROM A MYSTICAL, HIDDEN CITY. AND...



...AND A FLAME THAT BURNS STILL--A COSMIC INFERNO THAT CAN NEVER BE EXTINGUISHED.



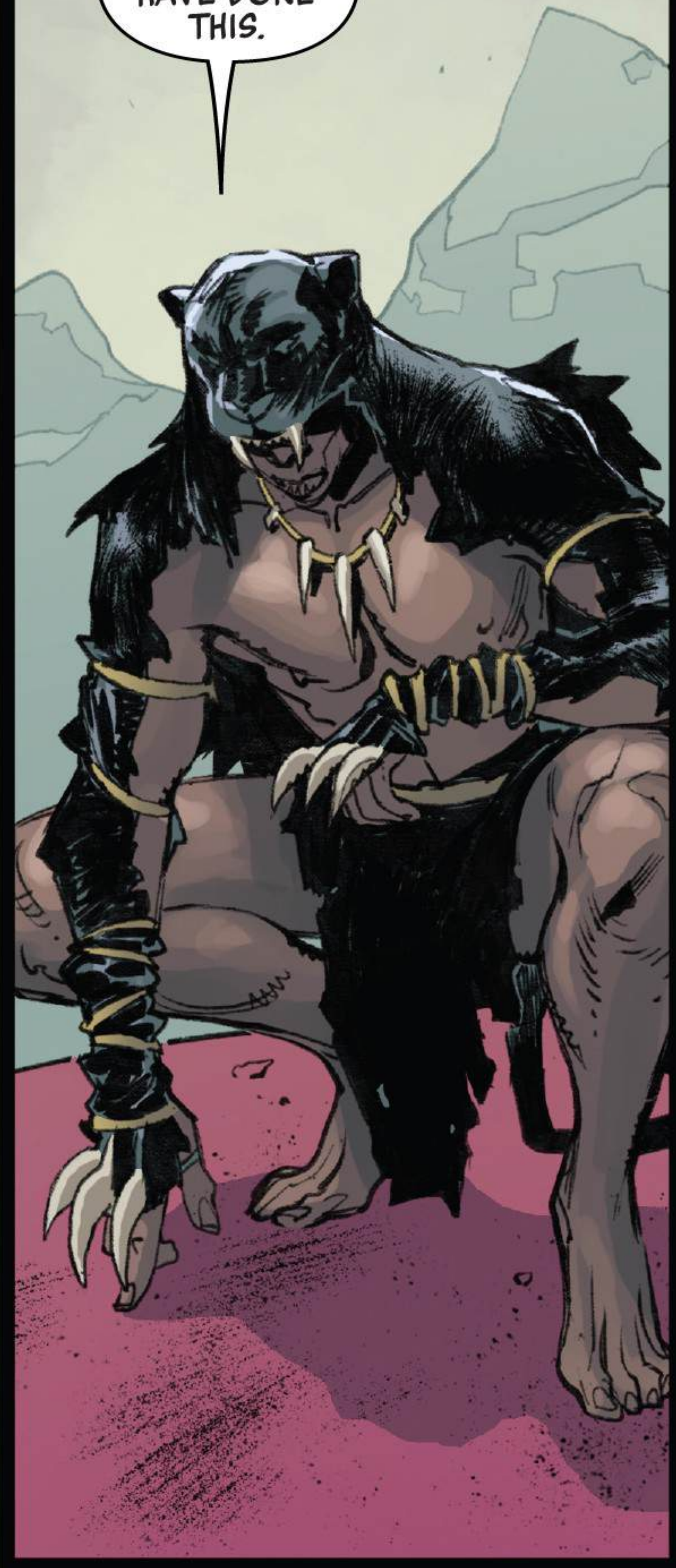
WE STOOD TOGETHER, AT THE DAWN OF MAN, THE WHOLE MOTLEY LOT OF US. AND WE FOUGHT TO SAVE THE WORLD.

PERHAPS... THAT WAS OUR BIGGEST MISTAKE. PERHAPS IT WOULD'VE BEEN FAR KINDER...

"...IF WE'D
LET IT DIE."

MIDGARD. 1,000,000 B.C.

WE
SHOULD NOT
HAVE DONE
THIS.



WE SHOULD
NOT HAVE KILLED
THIS THING FROM
THE SKY.

I AM
NOT ENTIRELY
SURE IT *IS* DEAD.
OR THAT SUCH A
BEING CAN *EVER*
TRULY DIE.

IT'S DEAD.
BELIEVE ME, I
HAVE SLAIN ENOUGH
GIANTS TO KNOW
WHEN ONE IS
FINISHED.



IT LEFT
US NO
CHOICE.

IT WAS
RAMPAGING. GOING
BERSERK. TRYING TO
TEAR OPEN THE
EARTH ITSELF.

IT THOUGHT
THIS WORLD WEAK
AND UNPROTECTED.
IT WAS WRONG.

UG!



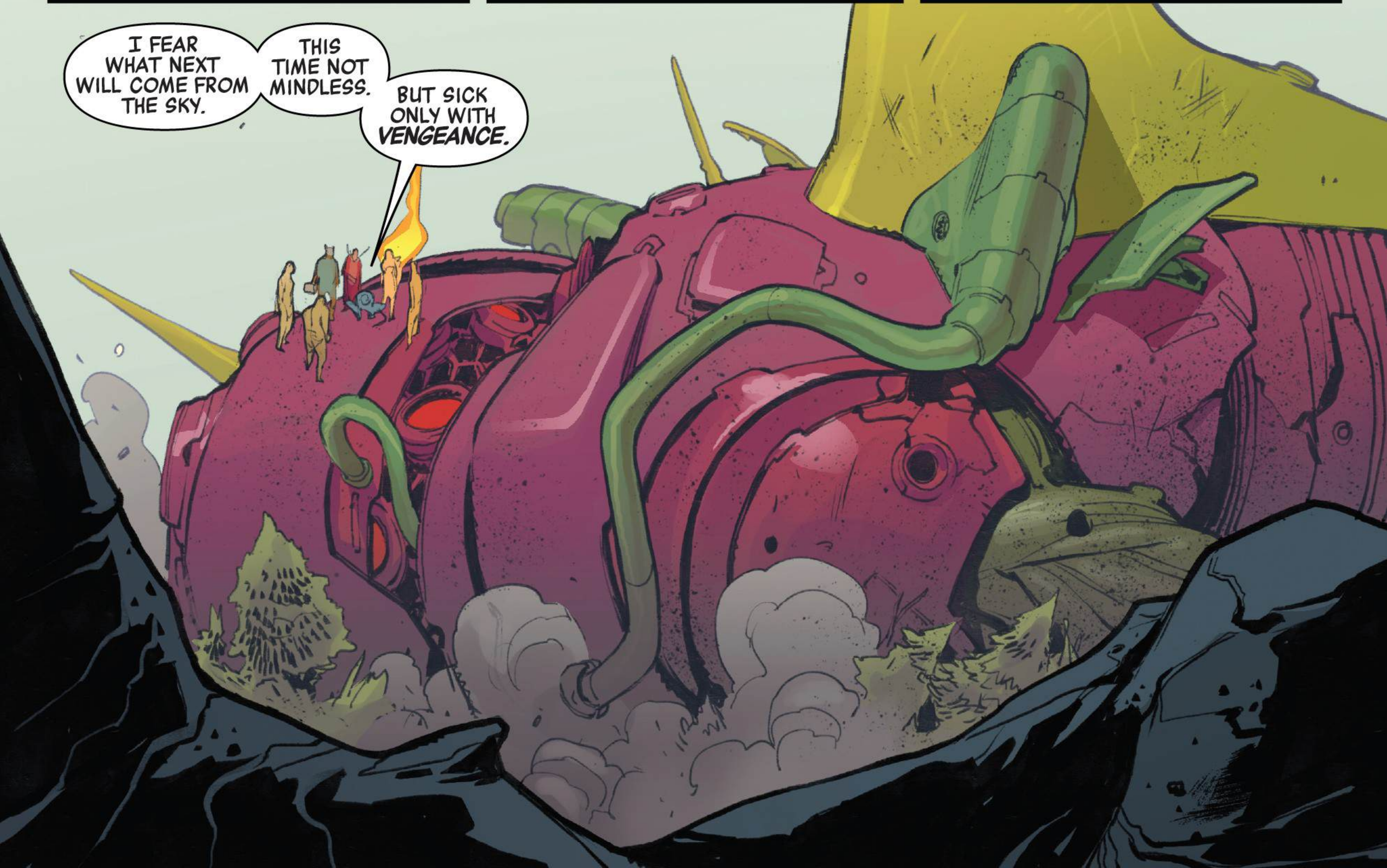
IT WAS
SICK. LIKE A
BOAR WHEN IT FOAMS
AT THE MOUTH. AMONG
MY TRIBE, WE HAVE
HEALERS WHO CAN CURE
SUCH ILLS. WE SHOULD
HAVE TRIED TO SAVE IT.

I *FEAR*
FOR US
NOW.

I FEAR
WHAT NEXT
WILL COME FROM
THE SKY.

THIS
TIME NOT
MINDLESS.

BUT SICK
ONLY WITH
VENGEANCE.



YOU SLEW A
MAD *CELESTIAL*...
ONE MILLION
YEARS AGO?

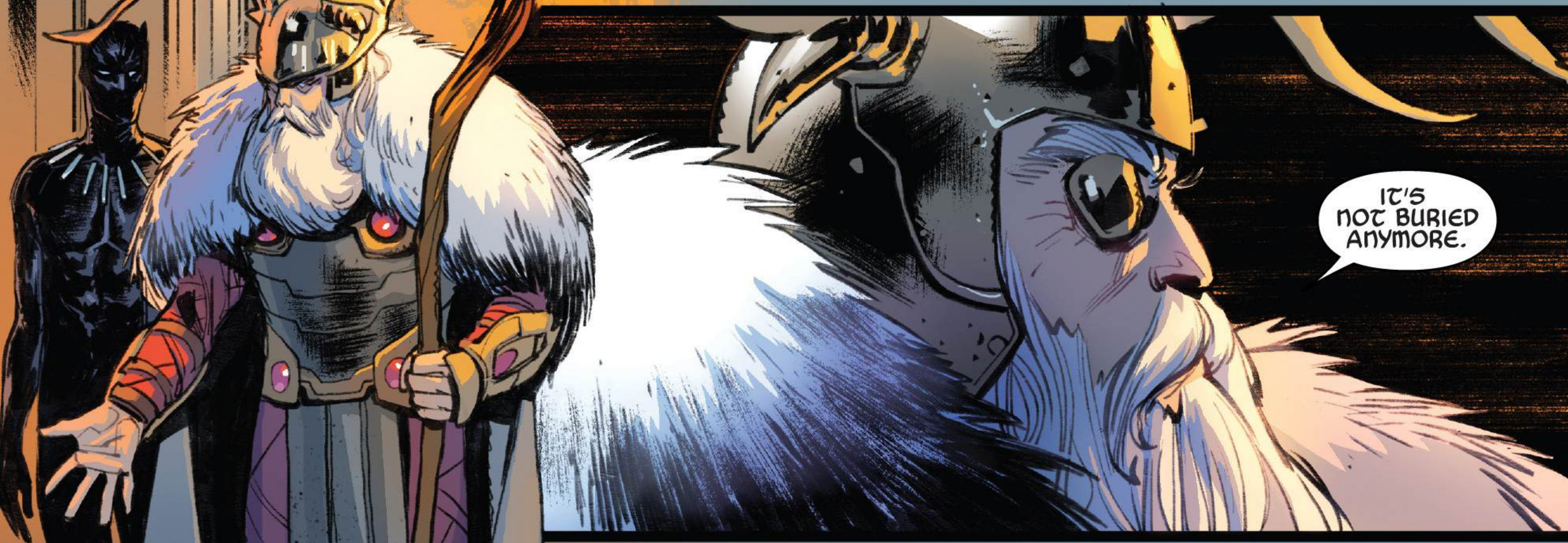
ONE OF THE
MOST POWERFUL,
UNKNOWABLE FORCES
OF COSMIC NATURE
THAT ANYONE HAS EVER
ENCOUNTERED?

AND YOU
BURIED IT UNDER
THE PLAINS OF WHAT
IS NOW *AFRICA*, MY
HOME CONTINENT?

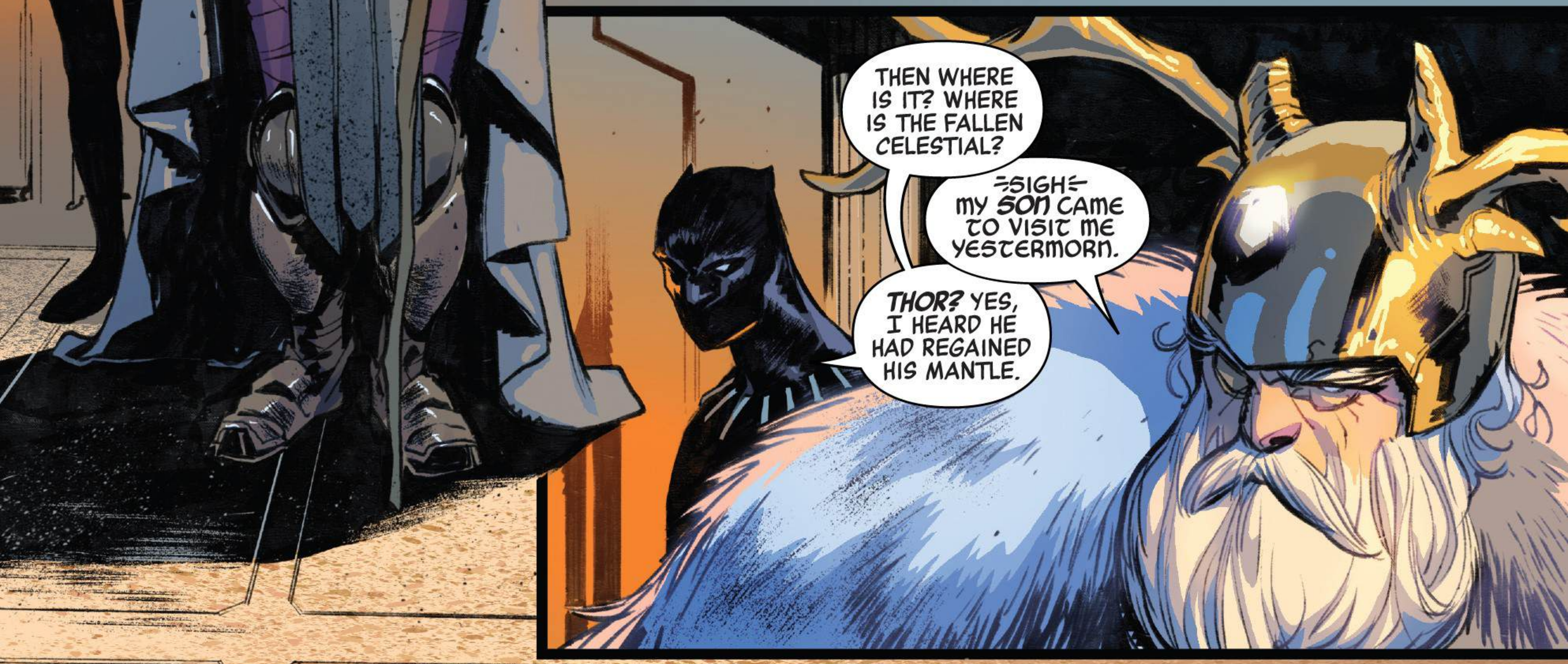
I WANTED
TO NAIL IT TO THE
MOON, AS A WARNING
TO THE OTHERS. BUT
AS I TOLD YOU, THE
WIZARD WAS
STUBBORN.

REST
ASSURED, I
WILL DEAL WITH
THIS *MYSELF*.

IT'S TOO
LATE FOR
THAT.



IT'S
NOT BURIED
ANYMORE.



THEN WHERE
IS IT? WHERE
IS THE FALLEN
CELESTIAL?

=SIGH=
my *SON* CAME
TO VISIT ME
YESTERMORN.

THOR? YES,
I HEARD HE
HAD REGAINED
HIS MANTLE.



no.



"NOT THOR."

YOU DO THIS TO TORTURE ME, DON'T YOU?

HEH.



I'M AFRAID I'M A BIT CONFUSED THOUGH, ALL-FATHER. HOW EXACTLY IS IT THAT I'M TORTURING YOU SO? DO TELL.

IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE LASHED YOU TO A ROCK WITH THE ENTRAILS OF YOUR MURDERED SON WHILE A SNAKE SLOWLY DRIPS ITS VENOM ONTO YOUR FACE.

NO, THAT'S WHAT YOU ONCE DID TO ME, ISN'T IT?



COMING BEFORE ME LIKE THIS. WITH NO SHAME. WITH MORE GALL THAN ANY CREATURE THAT HAS EVER DARED TO LIVE.

THIS IS HOW YOU TORTURE THE GOD WHO SAVED YOU, LOKI. WHO RAISED YOU AS HIS OWN.

ACTUALLY, I CAME TO SEE WHAT YOU'D DONE WITH THE OLD PLACE SINCE YOU MOVED BACK. FRANKLY, I CAN'T SAY I'M IMPRESSED.



YOU KNOW HOW IT IS YOU TORTURE ME. BY COMING HERE AND FORCING ME TO SEE YOU, STILL LIVING, STILL BREATHING MY AIR.

YOU SO ENJOY FLAUNTING IT IN MY FACE. FLAUNTING YOUR CONTINUED EXISTENCE.

IT TORTURES ME, LOKI... THAT YOU STILL LIVE.



IS IT MY FAULT YOU CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO KILL ME, FATHER? NO MATTER HOW DESPERATELY YOU MIGHT WANT TO, WITH EVERY ACHING FIBER OF YOUR ANCIENT, OMNIPOTENT HIDE?

I SHOULD'VE DONE IT WHEN YOU WERE A BABE. WHEN I FOUND YOU ALONE IN YOUR FROST GIANT CRIB.

I SHOULD'VE BURIED MY SPEAR IN YOUR SOFT LITTLE FLESH AND NEVER ONCE LOOKED BACK.



HEH. ONLY ODIN WOULD PREFER MURDERING AN INFANT TO FACING THE FULL-GROWN CONSEQUENCES OF WHAT HE HATH WROUGHT UPON THE REALMS.

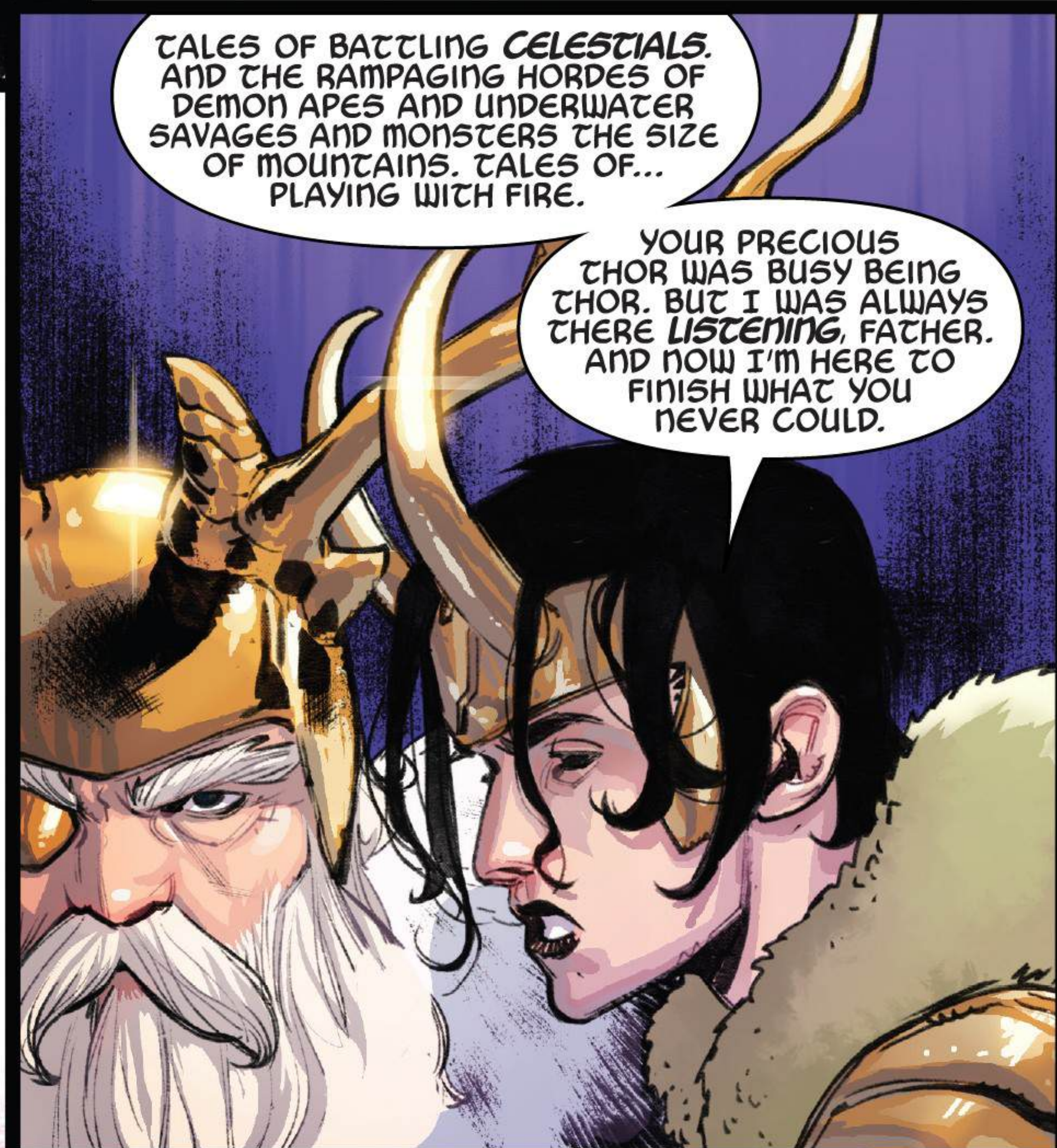
GO. LEAVE ME TO MY RUINS AND MY SUFFERING, BOY.

OR PERHAPS I'LL FIND SOMEONE IN THIS REALM WHO IS FAR LESS AVERSE TO KILLING YOU.



YOU'RE RIGHT, FATHER. I DO WANT YOU TO SEE ME. TO SEE WHAT GRAND NEW SAGAS I WEAVE IN YOUR UNHOLY NAME.

I'D WAGER YOU DON'T EVEN REMEMBER TELLING ME THE STORIES. YOU NEVER NOTICED I WAS THERE, JUST A CHILD, LISTENING ALONGSIDE YOUR THRONE, WHILE YOU REGALED THE DRUNKEN GODS OF ASGARD WITH TALES OF YOUR EXPLOITS AT THE DAWN OF MAN.



TALES OF BATTLING *CELESTIALS*. AND THE RAMPAGING HORDES OF DEMON APES AND UNDERWATER SAVAGES AND MONSTERS THE SIZE OF MOUNTAINS. TALES OF... PLAYING WITH FIRE.

YOUR PRECIOUS THOR WAS BUSY BEING THOR. BUT I WAS ALWAYS THERE *LISTENING*, FATHER. AND NOW I'M HERE TO FINISH WHAT YOU NEVER COULD.



YMIR'S BONES. IS THAT...

I COME TO YOU, ALL-FATHER, REBORN AS *LOKI THE LIFEBRINGER*. THE GREAT REJUVENATOR AND RESURRECTOR. *LOKI THE BLOODY BUILDER*. *LOKI THE SAVIOR* OF US ALL.

AND FATHER, AS YOU CAN SEE...

"...I DID NOT
COME ALONE."

ARE YOU
TELLING ME LOKI
HAS SOMEHOW
HARNESSED THE POWER
OF A CELESTIAL?
YOU SAW THIS? WITH
YOUR OWN EYE?

I'M TELLING
YOU THE FINAL
HOST IS COMING,
AND YOUR WORLD
WILL NEED YOU,
PANTHER.

TO LEAD
THE WAY. JUST
AS YOU SHOULD
HAVE DONE AT
THE DAWN OF
IT ALL.

AND I...
I WILL NEED
YOU, TOO.



WHEN
YOU FIND LOKI,
I AM ASKING YOU
TO DO WHAT THOR
WOULD NEVER BE
STRONG ENOUGH
TO DO.

WHAT I AM
TOO WEAK AND
TENDER-HEARTED
TO EVER DO
MYSELF.

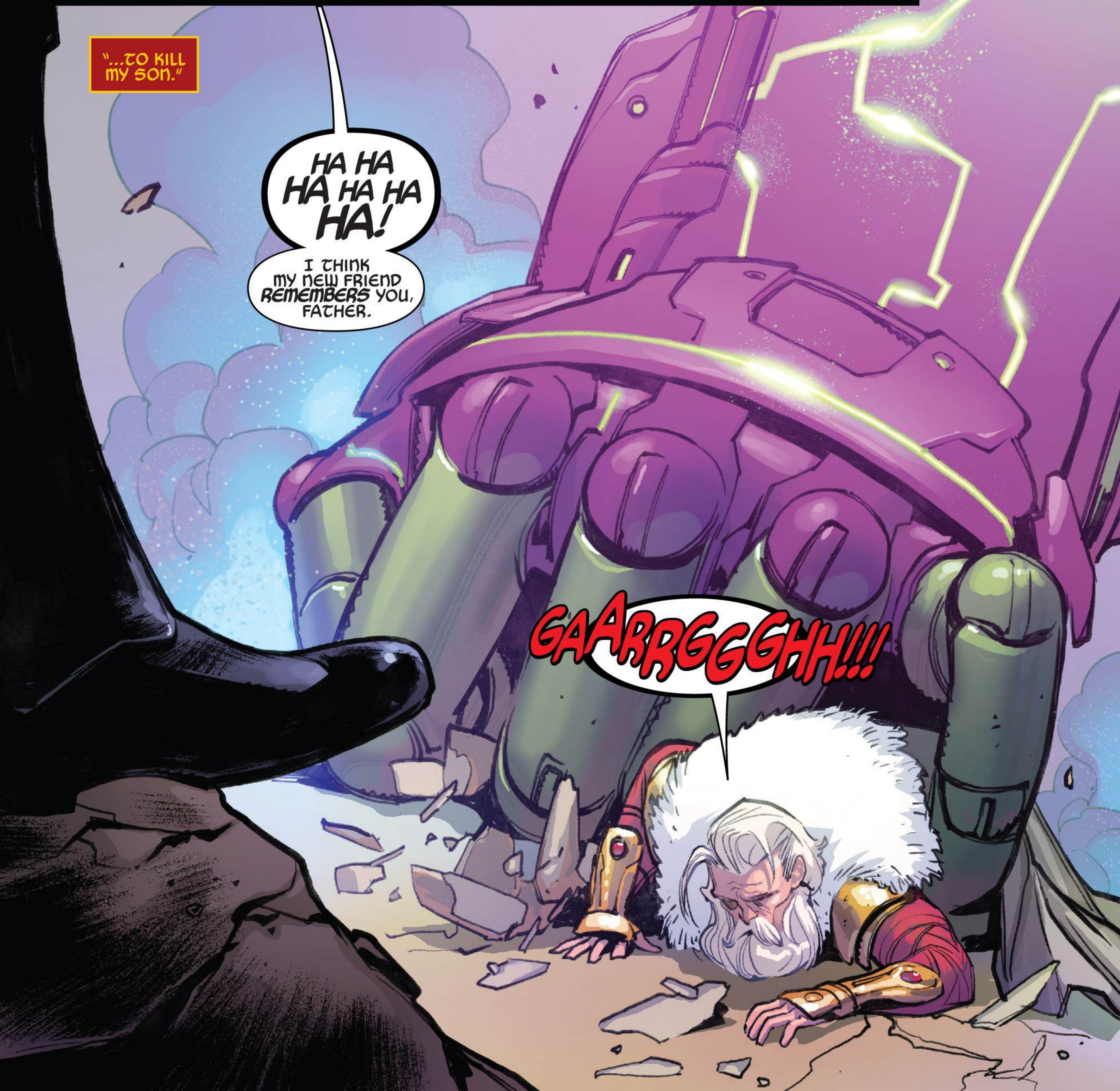
I NEED
YOU, BLACK
PANTHER...

"...TO KILL
my son."

HA HA
HA HA HA
HA!

I THINK
my NEW FRIEND
REMEMBERS you,
FATHER.

GAARRGGGGHH!!!





I WILL DEAL WITH THIS MESS YOU LEFT BURIED FOR A MILLION YEARS, ALL-FATHER ODIN. AND IF LOKI MUST DIE TO SAVE THE WORLD, I HAVE NEVER BEEN AFRAID TO METE OUT SUCH JUSTICE.

BUT THE KING OF WAKANDA IS NOT A **HIRED ASSASSIN**. NOT EVEN FOR THE GODS.

SAVE THE WORLD? YOU MISUNDERSTAND BADLY, PANTHER.



I SPEAK ONLY OF DEATH AND DAMNATION. THERE IS NO SALVATION TO COME. NOT FOR ANY OF US.

YOU CANNOT STOP THE **FINAL HOST**. NO MATTER WHAT **FOOLS** YOU MIGHT RECRUIT TO YOUR CAUSE.

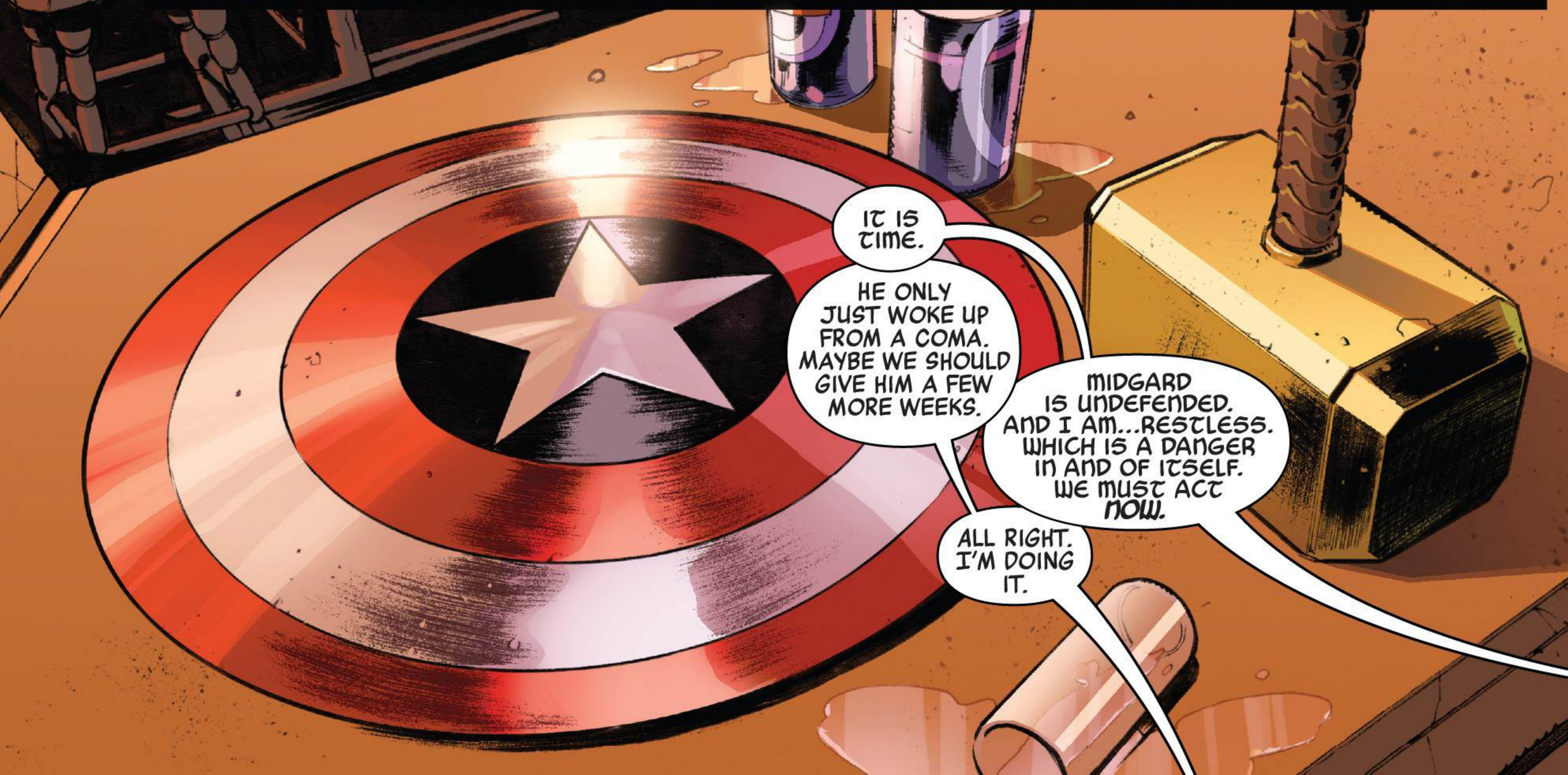
WE SHALL SEE ABOUT THAT.



"I KNOW SOME RATHER IMPRESSIVE FOOLS."

**MIDGARD.
MANHATTAN.**

CALL HIM.



IT IS TIME.

HE ONLY JUST WOKE UP FROM A COMA. MAYBE WE SHOULD GIVE HIM A FEW MORE WEEKS.

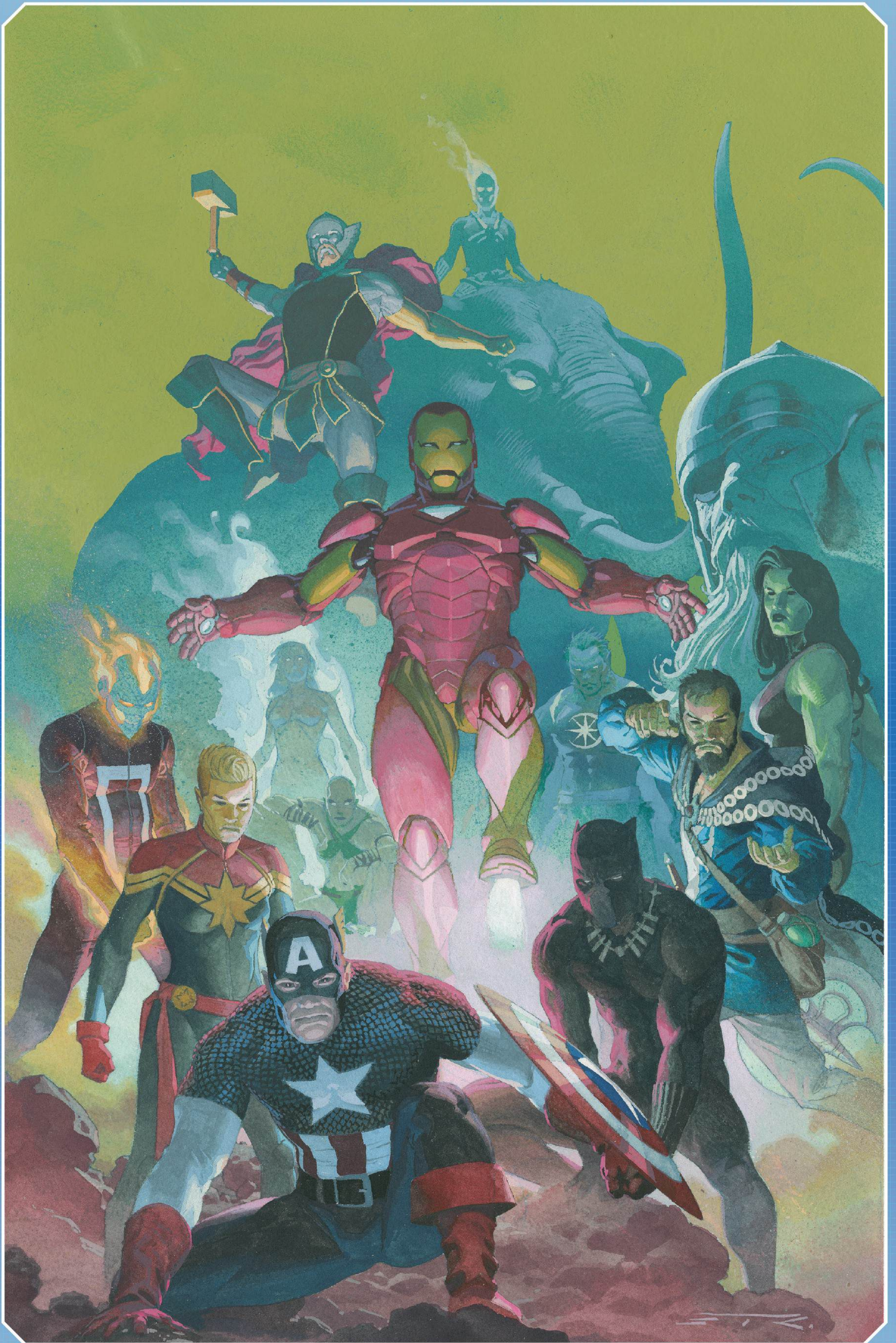
MIDGARD IS UNDEFENDED. AND I AM...RESTLESS. WHICH IS A DANGER IN AND OF ITSELF. WE MUST ACT NOW.

ALL RIGHT. I'M DOING IT.



"...JUST THE
THREE OF US."





ESAD RIBIĆ
1 VARIANT COVER

1 THE FINAL HOST



EARTH.
ONE MILLION YEARS AGO.



HERE'S TO
ENDINGS!

AND
TO GOOD
DEATHS FOR
US ALL!



IS NOW
REALLY THE
TIME FOR
DRINKING,
ODIN?

I WOULD
IMAGINE YOUR TWO
EYES WORK BETTER
THAN MY ONE, LADY
PHOENIX, SO I ASSUME
YOU CAN SEE WHAT
STANDS BEFORE
US.

IN WHICH
CASE, AYE, 'TIS
A VERY GOOD TIME
FOR DRINKING.

UUNK?

THE STARBRAND
WISHES TO KNOW,
WHAT IS THIS STRANGE
LIQUID THAT SMELLS
OF SWEETNESS
AND FIRE?



AH, IF YOU
THOUGHT FIRE WAS
A FINE GIFT OF THE
GODS, THEN HERE,
APE-MAN, TRY
FERMENTATION.

I'M JUST
SORRY I'M ONLY
GIVING IT TO YOU
NOW, ON THE
EVE OF OUR
DESTRUCTION.

DESTRUCTION?

WE KILLED
ONE OF THESE
THINGS BEFORE!
WE CAN DO IT
AGAIN!

THE SPIRIT
OF VENGEANCE
DOESN'T KNOW
FEAR!

AND
NEITHER
DOES MY
RIDE!

THE ONE
WE FOUGHT
BEFORE WAS
WEAKENED.



IT WAS INFECTED WITH SOMETHING...EVEN THE SORCERER SUPREME STILL CANNOT EXPLAIN.

THESE NEW ONES ARE NOT. AND THEY KNOW WHAT WE'VE DONE TO THEIR COMPATRIOT.

WE ACTED ONLY IN SELF-DEFENSE, AGAMOTTO. WE SHOULD EXPLAIN OURSELVES AND ATTEMPT TO BROKER PEACE.

WE DID WHAT WE HAD TO DO TO PROTECT OUR HOMES, IRON FIST. THE BLACK PANTHER WILL NOT APOLOGIZE. NOT EVEN TO GODS.

RRRRRRRRRRGGGGH!!!

IT WOULD APPEAR THE STARBRAND AGREES. EITHER THAT, OR HE WANTS MORE OF ODIN'S FIRE WATER.

AND IT SEEMS HE ISN'T ALONE.

MIGHT AS WELL DRINK UP, YOU DOOMED LITTLE MONKEYS. THAT'S FOUR-THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD ASGARDIAN MEAD. SEEMS A SHAME TO LET IT GO TO WASTE.

I'VE NEVER KNOWN YOU TO CONCEDE VICTORY SO EASILY, ODIN.

NO MATTER THE ODDS OR HOW UNIMAGINABLE THE FOE.

IS OUR ANNIHILATION TRULY SUCH A FORGONE CONCLUSION?

WILL THE VAUNTED ALL-FATHER OF ASGARD NOT EVEN FIGHT?

WILL I FIGHT?

ODIN BORSON
HAS NEVER WALKED
AWAY FROM A FIGHT
IN HIS ENTIRE
IMMORTAL LIFE.

AYE,
WOMAN. I WILL
FIGHT.

UNTIL I'VE
DRENCHED THE
BATTLEFIELD WITH
EVERY LAST DROP
OF MY HOLY
BLOOD.

UNTIL MY
FLESH HAS
BURNED AWAY AND
THERE'S NOTHING
LEFT OF ME BUT
BONES AND
THUNDER.

I WILL FIGHT
UNTIL THE
FINAL TWILIGHT.
UNTIL THE END
OF ALL THAT
EVER WAS.

AND THEN,
ONCE IT'S ALL
BEEN LAID TO WASTE...
MY SPIRIT WILL FIND
YOURS IN THE VOID,
MY LADY.

AND MAKE
LOVE TO YOU IN
THE ASHES OF
INFINITY FOR A
BILLION YEARS.

AND WE WILL
BUILD CREATION
AGAIN, YOU
AND I.

A FINE
IDEA, MY DEAR
ASGARDIAN.

OR
PERHAPS...

...PERHAPS WE
SIMPLY KILL ANYTHING
THAT DARES STAND IN
OUR WAY!

BE IT MAN
OR GOD OR
GIANTS FROM
THE STARS!

WE KILL
IT WITH
FIRE!

GODS, I
LOVE THAT
WOMAN.

COME,
MJJOLNIR!
RAGNAROK
AWAITS!





HYAH!
WE RIDE!

RRRRGGGHH!!!

AGAMOTTO.
USE YOUR MAGIC
EYE AND TELL US...
IS THERE ANY HOPE AT
ALL FOR US TO CLAIM
VICTORY THIS
DAY?

THAT DEPENDS,
IRON FIST, ON
WHAT YOU MEAN
BY VICTORY.

IF YOU'RE
HOPING WE CAN
SAVE THE WORLD,
I WOULD ASK
YOU...

...SAVE IT
FROM *WHAT*,
EXACTLY?

THIS EARTH'S
GREATEST ENEMY
MIGHT VERY WELL BE
THE THING WE FIGHT
TO PROTECT HERE
TODAY.

THE
NASCENT
LIFE SLOWLY
FLOWERING
AROUND
US.

AND
THAT INCLUDES
US.



OOONK!



RRRRRKK!

GGRRUNK!



IF YOU'RE
ASKING ME IF THERE'S
A CHANCE WE WILL
PREVAIL IN THIS BATTLE,
I BELIEVE YOU
ALREADY KNOW THE
ANSWER.

THOSE OF
US GATHERED HERE
TODAY ARE THE
IMPOSSIBLE IN
PHYSICAL FORM.

GODS AND
MUTANTS AND
MONSTERS. CAVEMEN
WITH THE POWERS OF
THE STARS.

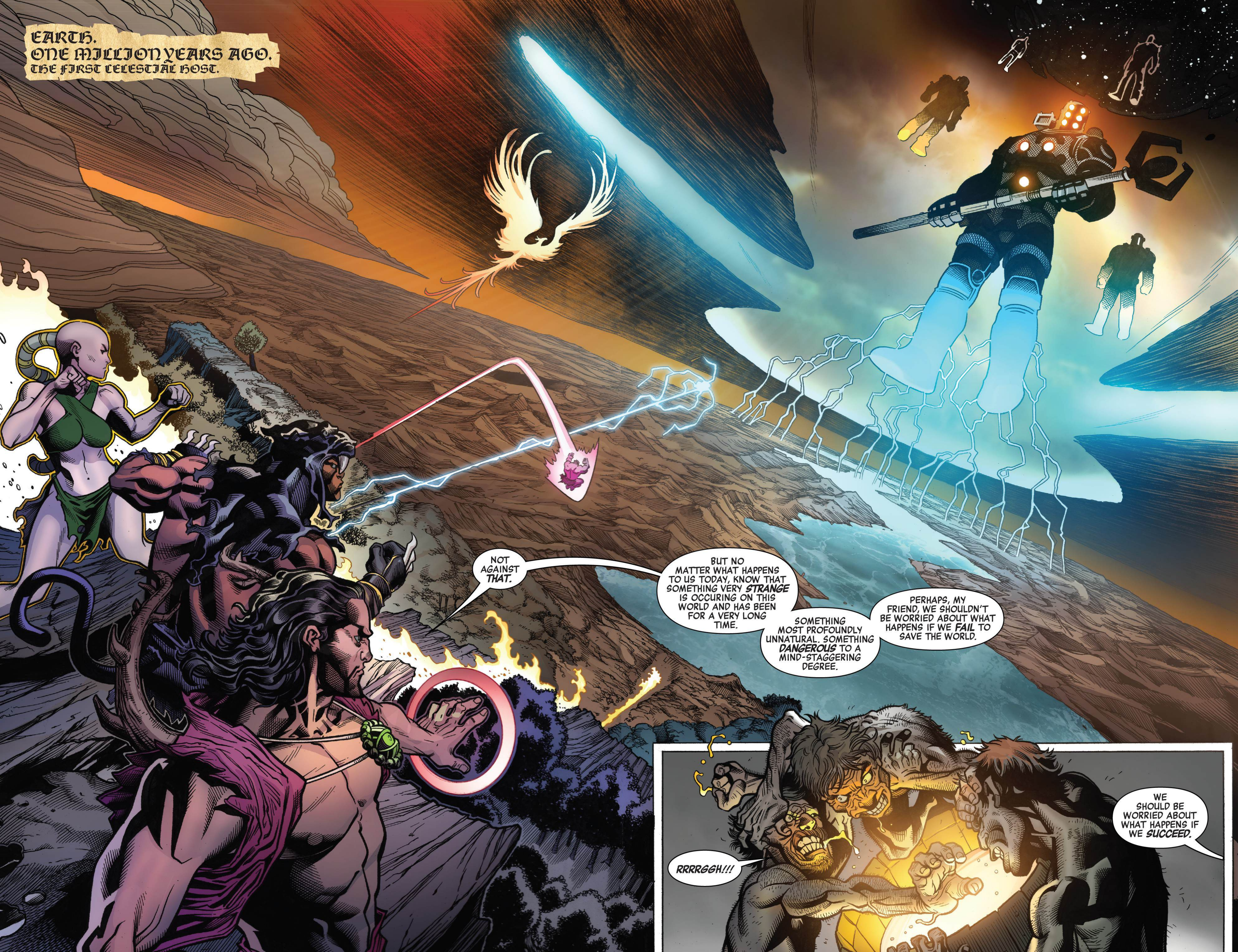
WE ARE
WITHOUT A DOUBT
THE MIGHTIEST FORCE
EVER ASSEMBLED UPON
THE FACE OF THIS
PRIMITIVE PLANET.

BUT
NO.

WE
WILL NOT
BE ENOUGH.
NOT EVEN
CLOSE.

NOT TO
WIN.

EARTH.
ONE MILLION YEARS AGO.
THE FIRST CELESTIAL HOST.



NOT
AGAINST
THAT.

BUT NO
MATTER WHAT HAPPENS
TO US TODAY, KNOW THAT
SOMETHING VERY **STRANGE**
IS OCCURRING ON THIS
WORLD AND HAS BEEN
FOR A VERY LONG
TIME.

SOMETHING
MOST PROFOUNDLY
UNNATURAL. SOMETHING
DANGEROUS TO A
MIND-STAGGERING
DEGREE.

PERHAPS, MY
FRIEND, WE SHOULDN'T
BE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENS IF WE **FAIL** TO
SAVE THE WORLD.

RRRRGGH!!!

WE
SHOULD BE
WORRIED ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENS IF
WE **SUCCEED**.

**EARTH.
NOW.**

"HERE YOU
GO, BOYS."

BEER,
MEAD AND
A SHIRLEY
TEMPLE.

CAN
I GET
YOU FELLAS
ANYTHING
ELSE?

THINK
THAT'LL DO
FOR A START.
THANKS.

A TOAST,
BROTHERS.

TO
SEIZING
THE DAY.

BY ITS
ODIN-DAMNED
THROAT.

TO THE
FUTURE.

ONE
WITHOUT
ME IN A
COMA.

TO THE
GOOD OLD
DAYS.

TO THE
AVENGERS.



ONE DRINK, **STEVE**. WE COULDN'T EVEN GET THROUGH **ONE DRINK** WITHOUT YOU SAYING THE **A-WORD**.

I AM THROUGH WITH **MY DRINK**.

BARTENDER! ANOTHER!

I DON'T KNOW, **TONY**, FEELS TO ME LIKE IT'S BEEN A MILLION YEARS SINCE I'VE SAID IT. OR MORE THAN THAT, **FELT IT**.

WELL, I SUPPOSE I'M STILL JUST HAPPY TO BE FEELING ANYTHING AT ALL.

YOU KNOW WHAT'S THE OPPOSITE OF ME BEING MY USUAL AMAZING SELF AND DOING ALL SORTS OF AMAZING ME-STUFF?

BEING **BRAIN-DEAD**.

WE GET IT. YOU WERE IN A COMA. FOR WHAT, A FEW **WEEKS**?

I WAS TRAPPED IN ICE FOR THE FIRST 40 SUPER BOWLS.

AND LATELY IT'S A MATTER OF OPINION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT I SHOULD STILL BE IN THERE.

I ONCE BROKE INTO MY FATHER'S PRIVATE CASKHOUSE AND DRANK MYSELF INTO A STUPOR THAT LASTED NINE MOON TURNS.

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT DOING THAT AGAIN. EVERY TIME I REACH FOR A **MJOLNIR** THAT IS NO LONGER THERE.

AND THAT I PROBABLY COULD NOT LIFT EVEN IF IT WERE.



WE MAKE
QUITE THE TRIO.
HYDRA CAP, COMA
TONY AND THE
UNWORTHY
THOR.

CLEARLY IT'S
BEEN A BUMPY
RIDE FOR ALL THREE
OF US LATELY. BUT
WE'RE HERE NOW,
AREN'T WE? GOOD
AS NEW.

ISH.

I'VE GOT A WORKING BRAIN
AND NEW ARMOR. THOR'S GOT
NEW HAMMERS. CAP IS...THE
SAME OLD CAP AGAIN.
WHAT MORE DO
WE NEED?

YOU
KNOW WHAT
WE NEED.

WE
NEED TO PUT
IT ALL BACK
TOGETHER.

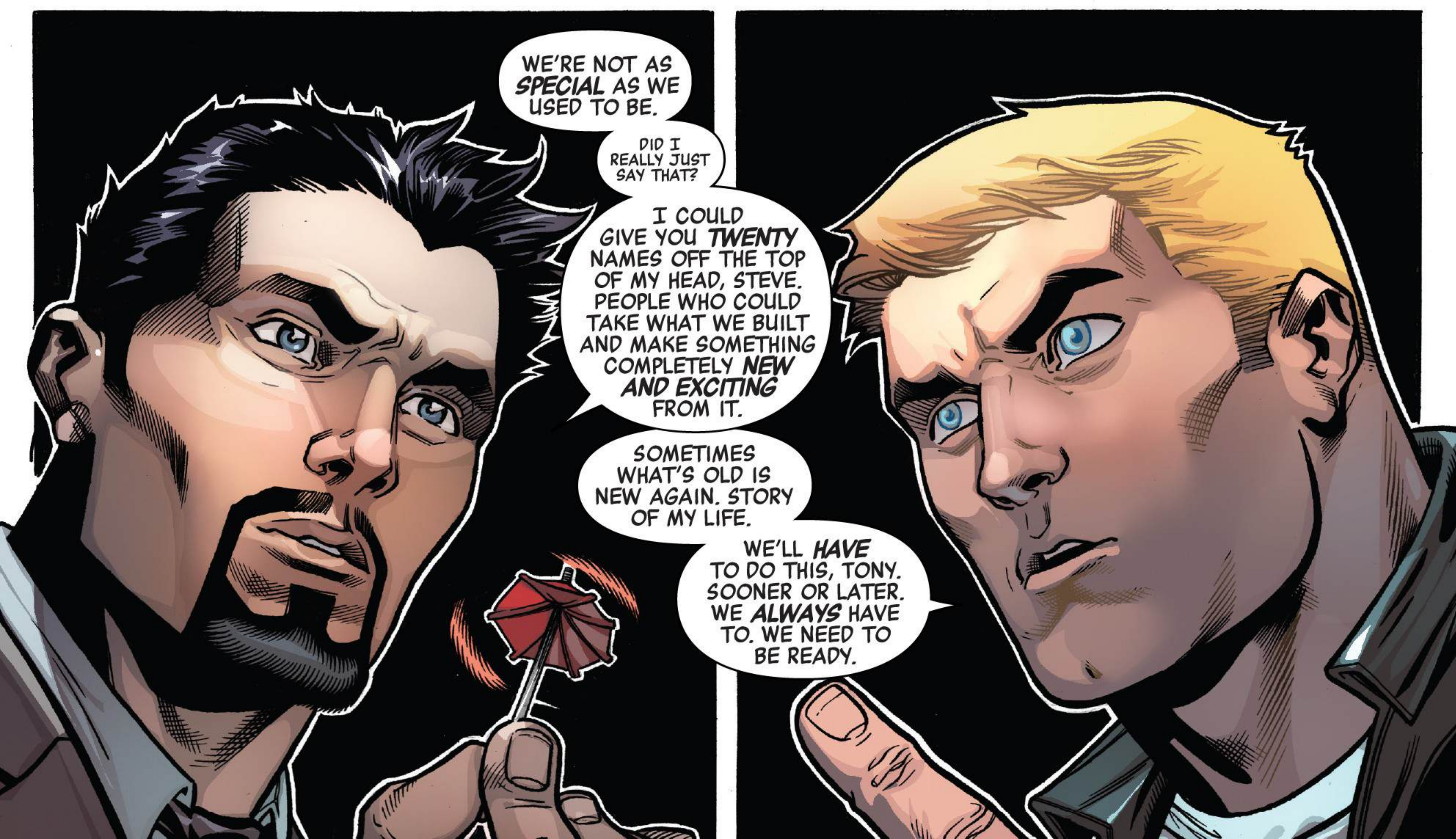
STEVE...I'M
NOT SURE WE'RE
THE ONES TO DO
THAT ANYMORE.

TIMES HAVE
CHANGED.

SO
HAVE WE,
TONY.

THEN WE
SHOULD RECOGNIZE
WHEN IT'S TIME TO
STEP ASIDE.

WE DID THAT.
NOW IT'S TIME TO
STEP UP AGAIN. IN THE
WAY ONLY WE CAN.



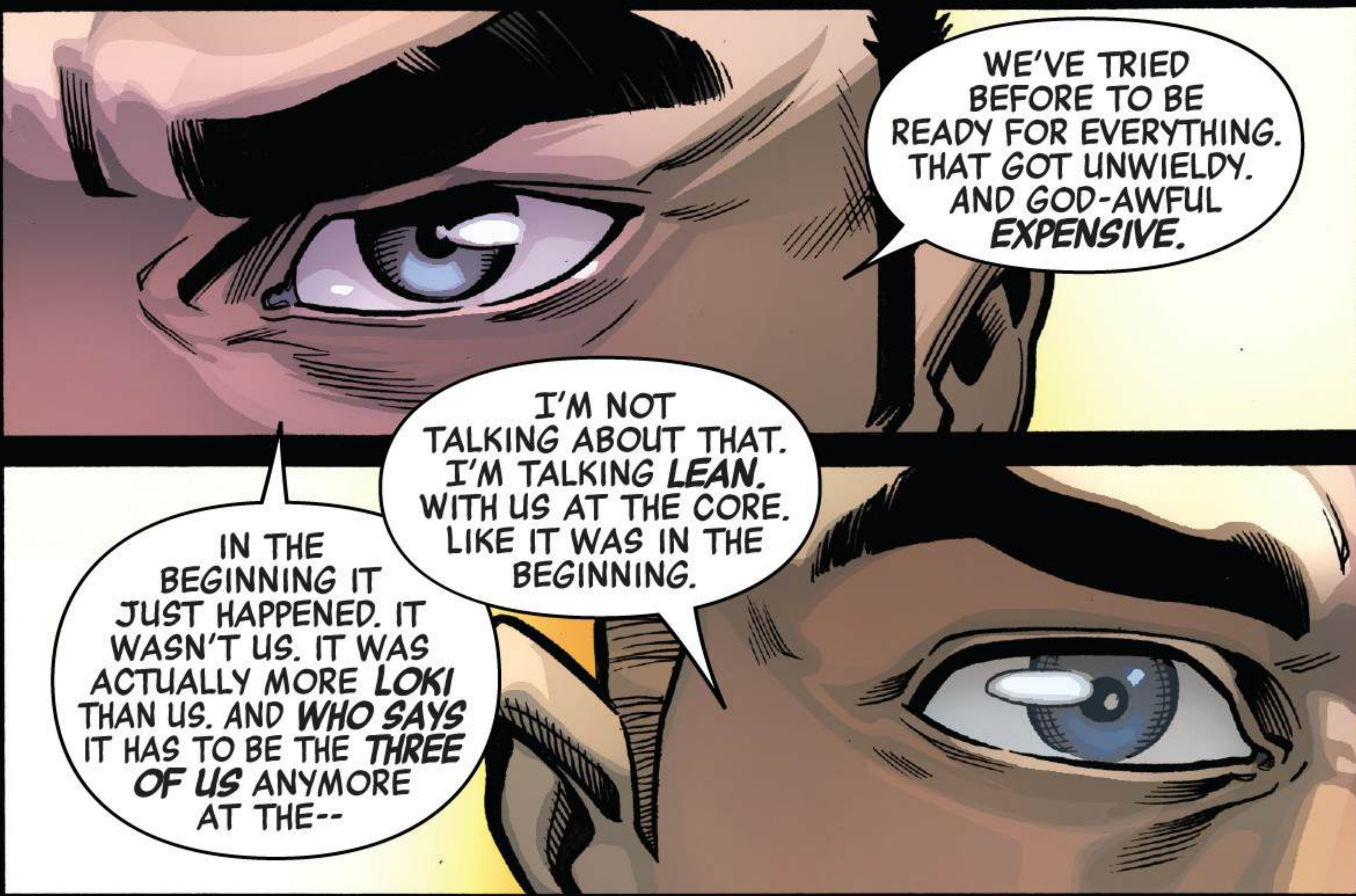
WE'RE NOT AS
SPECIAL AS WE
USED TO BE.

DID I
REALLY JUST
SAY THAT?

I COULD
GIVE YOU **TWENTY**
NAMES OFF THE TOP
OF MY HEAD, STEVE.
PEOPLE WHO COULD
TAKE WHAT WE BUILT
AND MAKE SOMETHING
COMPLETELY **NEW**
AND **EXCITING**
FROM IT.

SOMETIMES
WHAT'S OLD IS
NEW AGAIN. STORY
OF MY LIFE.

WE'LL **HAVE**
TO DO THIS, TONY.
SOONER OR LATER.
WE **ALWAYS** HAVE
TO. WE NEED TO
BE READY.



WE'VE TRIED BEFORE TO BE READY FOR EVERYTHING. THAT GOT UNWIELDY. AND GOD-AWFUL EXPENSIVE.

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT. I'M TALKING **LEAN**. WITH US AT THE CORE. LIKE IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING.

IN THE BEGINNING IT JUST HAPPENED. IT WASN'T US. IT WAS ACTUALLY MORE **LOKI** THAN US. AND **WHO SAYS** IT HAS TO BE THE **THREE OF US** ANYMORE AT THE--



SLAM



THOR, GOD OF THUNDER... SAYS...

...AS THE STARS ARE MY WITNESS...

IT MUST BE US.

WE...NEED THIS. NOW MORE THAN EVER. WE THREE NEED ONE ANOTHER.

WE CANNOT RUN FROM THAT, MY BROTHERS. WE MUST EMBRACE IT.

OKAY. SO... WOW, SUDDENLY BEING CLINICALLY DEAD HAS A NICE, SOOTHING RING TO IT.

SO TELL ME SOMETHING, CAPTAIN AND TENNILLE, SINCE YOU TWO SEEM TO HAVE THIS ALL FIGURED OUT...

...EXACTLY WHO THE HELL ALL AM I SUPPOSED TO BE EMBRACING THIS TIME AROUND?



WE'LL
KNOW WHEN
WE KNOW.

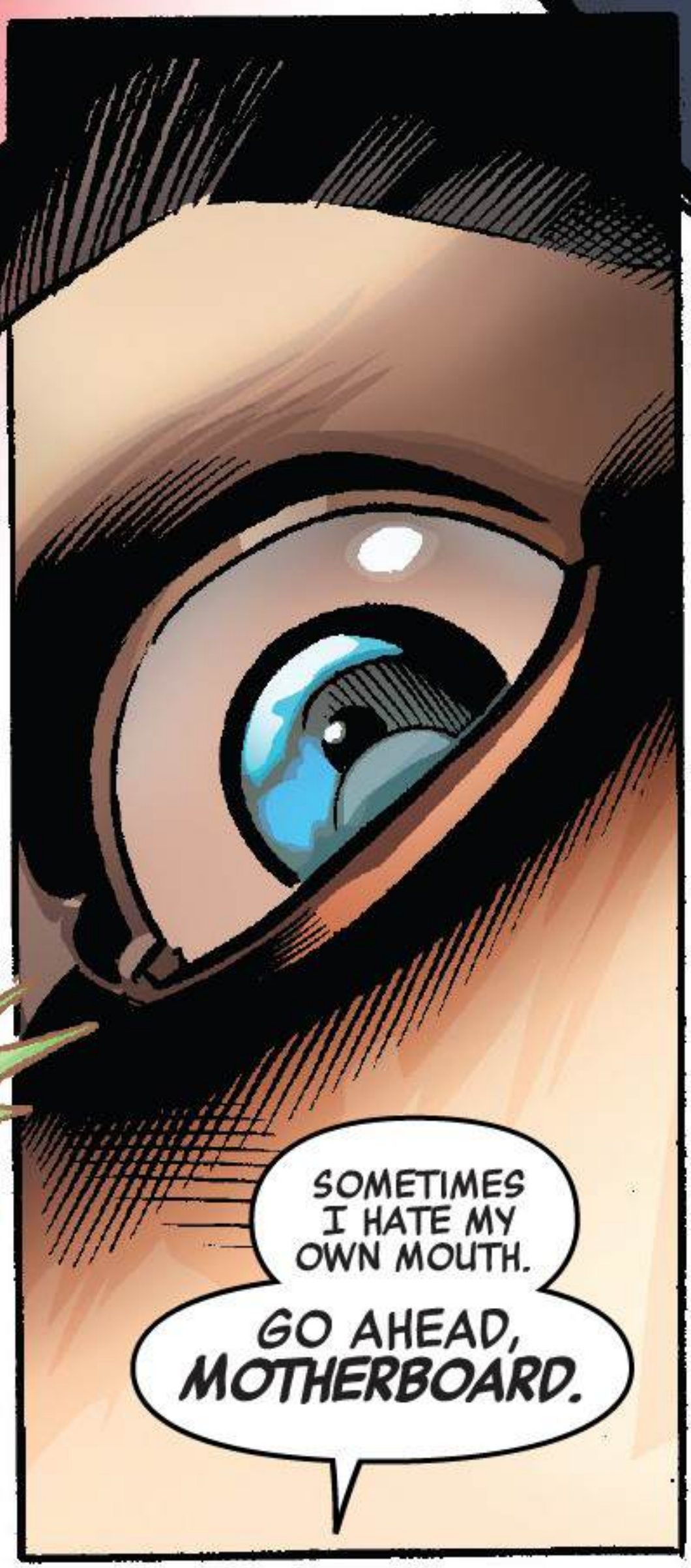
AYE. *RIGHT*
NOW I KNOW
NEED ANOTHER
DRINK.

WELL
THEN.
THAT'S JUST
GREAT. SO I
GUESS IT'S
DECIDED.

BY *YOU TWO*
ANCIENT FARTS,
AT LEAST.

SO
I SUPPOSE
ALL WE HAVE TO
DO NOW IS SIT
AROUND HERE AND
WAIT FOR SOME
STARTLING NEW
CALAMITY TO
SUDDENLY--

AH, SORRY TO BE
THE SORT OF A.I. THAT
INTERRUPTS YOUR ANGRY
SOLILOQUIES, MR. STARK,
BUT I'M AFRAID
I HAVE SOME RATHER
ALARMING NEWS.



SOMETIMES
I HATE MY
OWN MOUTH.
GO AHEAD,
MOTHERBOARD.



YOUR
SATELLITES
ARE DETECTING
MULTIPLE ENERGY
FLUCTUATIONS
IN NEAR-EARTH
ORBIT.

MASSIVE
FLUCTUATIONS.
QUITE LUDICROUSLY
MASSIVE, ACTUALLY. ALL
OF AN UNKNOWN
ORIGIN.

WELL THEN,
I GUESS THAT'S
IT. *AVENGERS,*
A--

YOU SAY
THOSE WORDS,
ROGERS, AND YOU
CAN PICK UP THOR'S
TAB YOURSELF.

THE PRINCE
OF ASGARD CAN
PAY HIS OWN DEBTS!
DO THEY ACCEPT
RUNE STONES?

DEEP BREATH.
KEEP TELLING
YOURSELF YOU
MISSED THIS.

ALL RIGHT,
WHICH WAY,
MOTHERBOARD?

ROUGHLY
200 MILES,
SIR...

"...STRAIGHT UP."

IT'S AN IMPRESSIVE DIG SITE. AND IN THE VERY CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION, NO LESS.

BUT I DO HOPE YOU DIDN'T SUMMON ME HERE WITH **ARCHAEOLOGY** IN MIND.

MEANWHILE.
TWO MILES STRAIGHT DOWN,
BENEATH THE PLAINS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

I'M AFRAID
I'M NOT THAT
SORT OF DOCTOR,
T'CHALLA.

IT'S NOT
THE ANCIENT
REMAINS IN THIS CAVE
THAT I FELT WARRANTED
THE ATTENTION OF THE
BLACK PANTHER AND
DOCTOR STRANGE.

IT'S
THE **FRESH**
ONES.

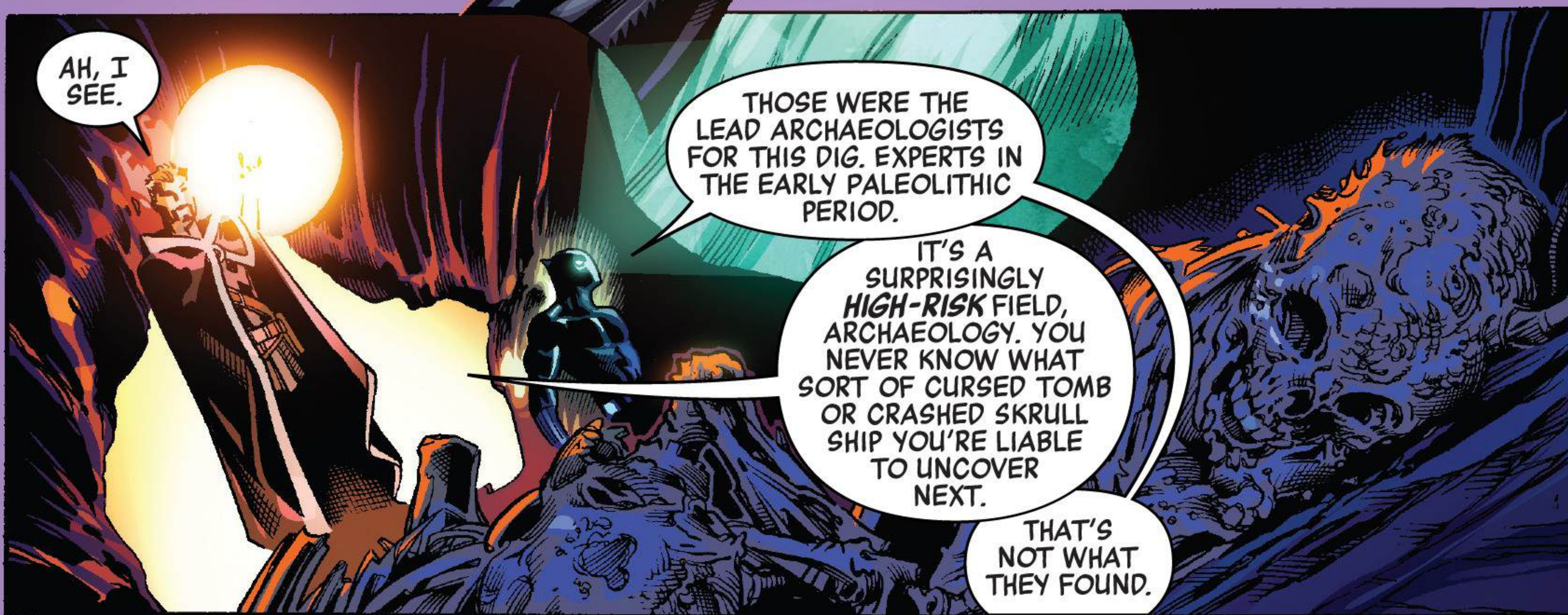


AH, I
SEE.

THOSE WERE THE
LEAD **ARCHAEOLOGISTS**
FOR THIS DIG. EXPERTS IN
THE EARLY PALEOLITHIC
PERIOD.

IT'S A
SURPRISINGLY
HIGH-RISK FIELD,
ARCHAEOLOGY. YOU
NEVER KNOW WHAT
SORT OF CURSED TOMB
OR CRASHED SKRULL
SHIP YOU'RE LIABLE
TO UNCOVER
NEXT.

THAT'S
NOT WHAT
THEY FOUND.





THEIR DISCOVERY EMITTED AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF COSMIC RADIATION, EVEN THOUGH IT'D BEEN BURIED HERE FOR A MILLION YEARS.

IT BURNED THOSE MEN ALIVE, AND THEN SOMEHOW DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY.

WHAT WAS IT?



THAT'S WHAT I NEED YOU TO TELL ME, DOCTOR.

THERE WAS DEFINITELY **MAGIC** IN THIS PLACE. SPELLS DESIGNED TO KEEP SOMETHING HERE AND TO KEEP OTHERS OUT. VERY **OLD** MAGIC.

BY THE HOARY HOSTS OF HOGGOTH... IT WAS...

AGAMOTTO'S MAGIC.



HE WAS THE EARTH'S VERY FIRST SORCERER SUPREME.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE SPELLS? WHY DID THEY FAIL?

ALL MAGIC DIED RECENTLY, DURING MY BATTLE WITH A GROUP OF SCIENCE CULTISTS CALLED THE **EMPIRIKUL**. THE SPELLS HERE WERE SO ANCIENT, THEY WOULD'VE NEVER RECONSTITUTED.

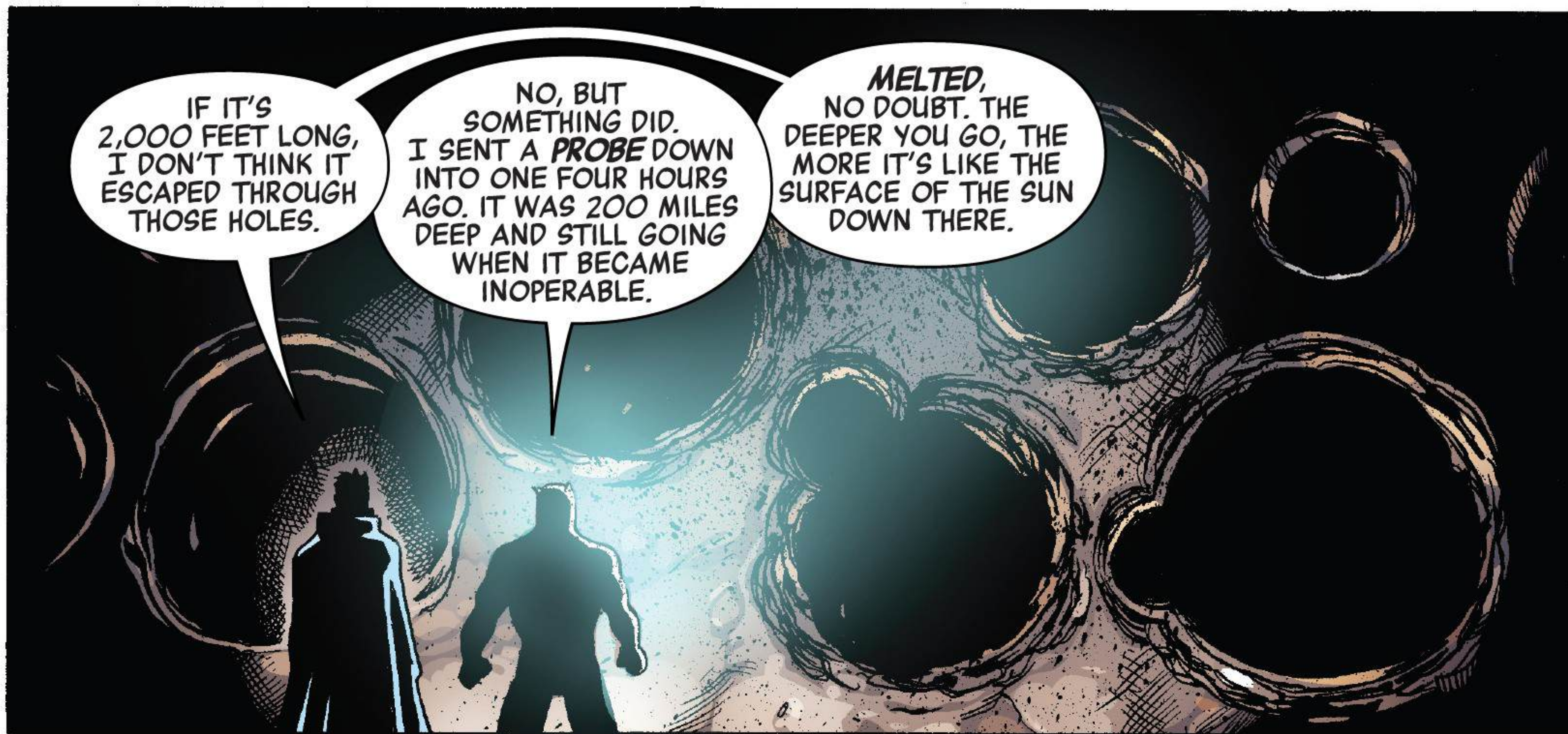
AS FOR THE THING THEY WERE MEANT TO GUARD...



IT WAS SOMETHING QUITE LARGE. SOMETHING... **ALIVE**. ITS **FEAR** STILL STAINS THESE WALLS. FEAR AND LONELINESS. AND RAGE.

I AGREE THAT WHATEVER IT WAS, IT WAS MASSIVE. AT LEAST 600 METERS LONG, BY MY ESTIMATES. SO THE QUESTION THEN BECOMES...

...WHERE DID IT GO?



IF IT'S 2,000 FEET LONG, I DON'T THINK IT ESCAPED THROUGH THOSE HOLES.

NO, BUT SOMETHING DID. I SENT A **PROBE** DOWN INTO ONE FOUR HOURS AGO. IT WAS 200 MILES DEEP AND STILL GOING WHEN IT BECAME INOPERABLE.

MELTED, NO DOUBT. THE DEEPER YOU GO, THE MORE IT'S LIKE THE SURFACE OF THE SUN DOWN THERE.



THE DEEPER WE GO, THE CLOSER WE ARE TO FINDING ANSWERS.

I'VE SEEN THIS MOVIE BEFORE, YOU KNOW. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT BLOWS UP IN OUR FACES IF WE GO BLUNDERING IN. AND MAYBE BLOWS UP THE EARTH ALONG WITH IT.

YOU NEED THE **AVENGERS** ON THIS, T'CHALLA.

THERE ARE NO AVENGERS, STEPHEN.



THE SYMBOLS ON THAT CAVE WALL DATE BACK TO THE **STONE AGE**. MINE IS AMONG THEM. AND SO IS YOURS.

WHATEVER IS HAPPENING HERE, DOCTOR, WE ARE ALREADY INVOLVED.

AND HAVE BEEN FOR A VERY LONG TIME.



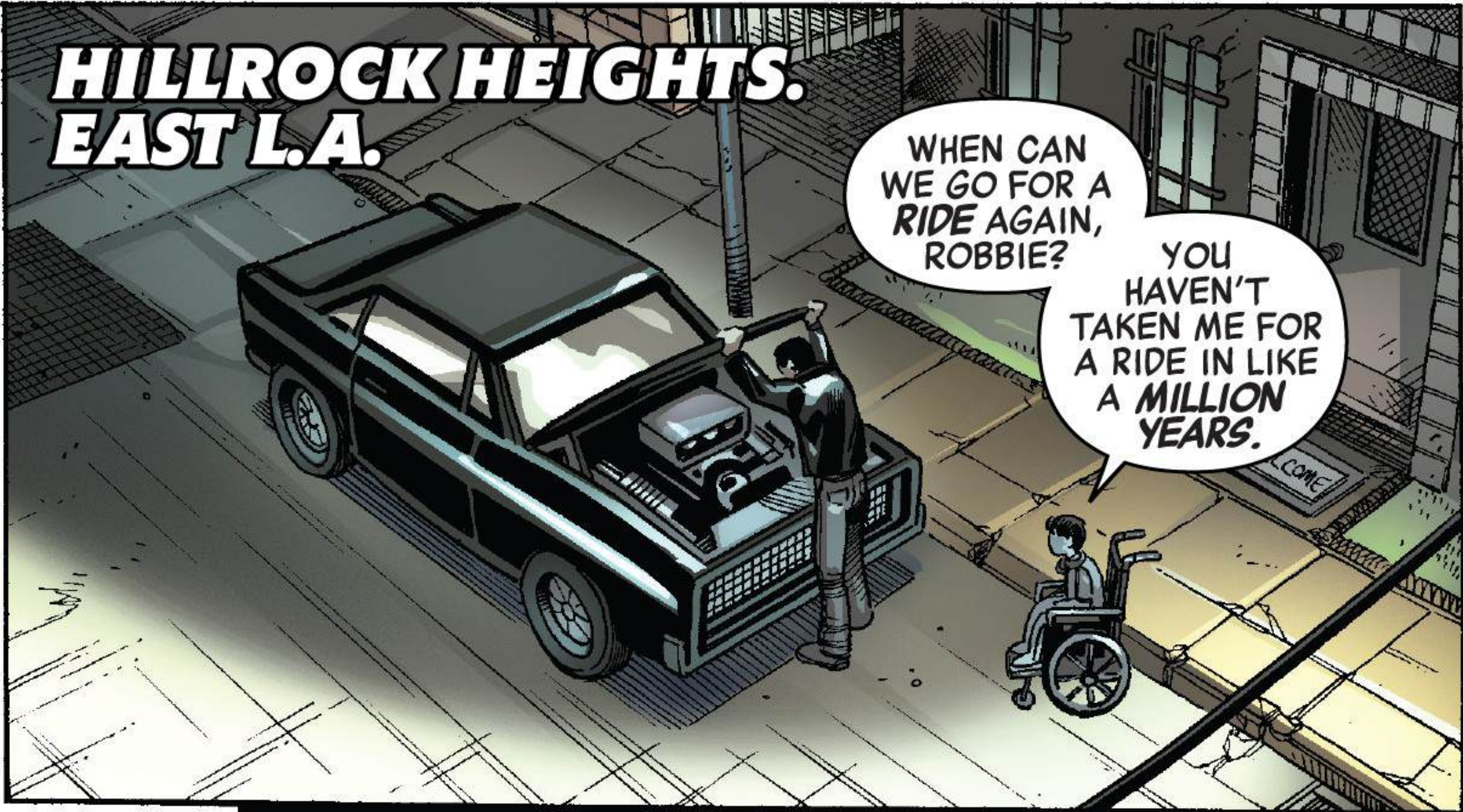
I WILL SEE YOU BELOW.



GREAT.

SO IF ANYBODY NEEDS ME...

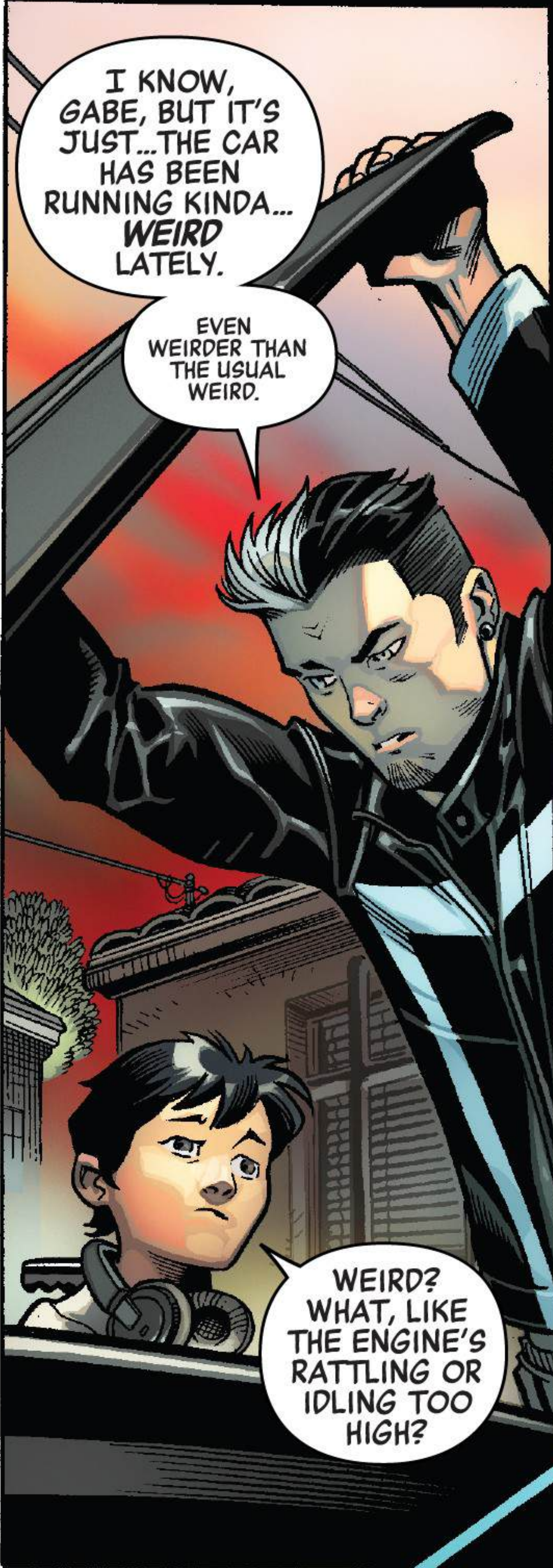
...I SUPPOSE I'LL BE AT THE **CENTER OF THE EARTH**.



**HILLROCK HEIGHTS.
EAST L.A.**

WHEN CAN
WE GO FOR A
RIDE AGAIN,
ROBBIE?

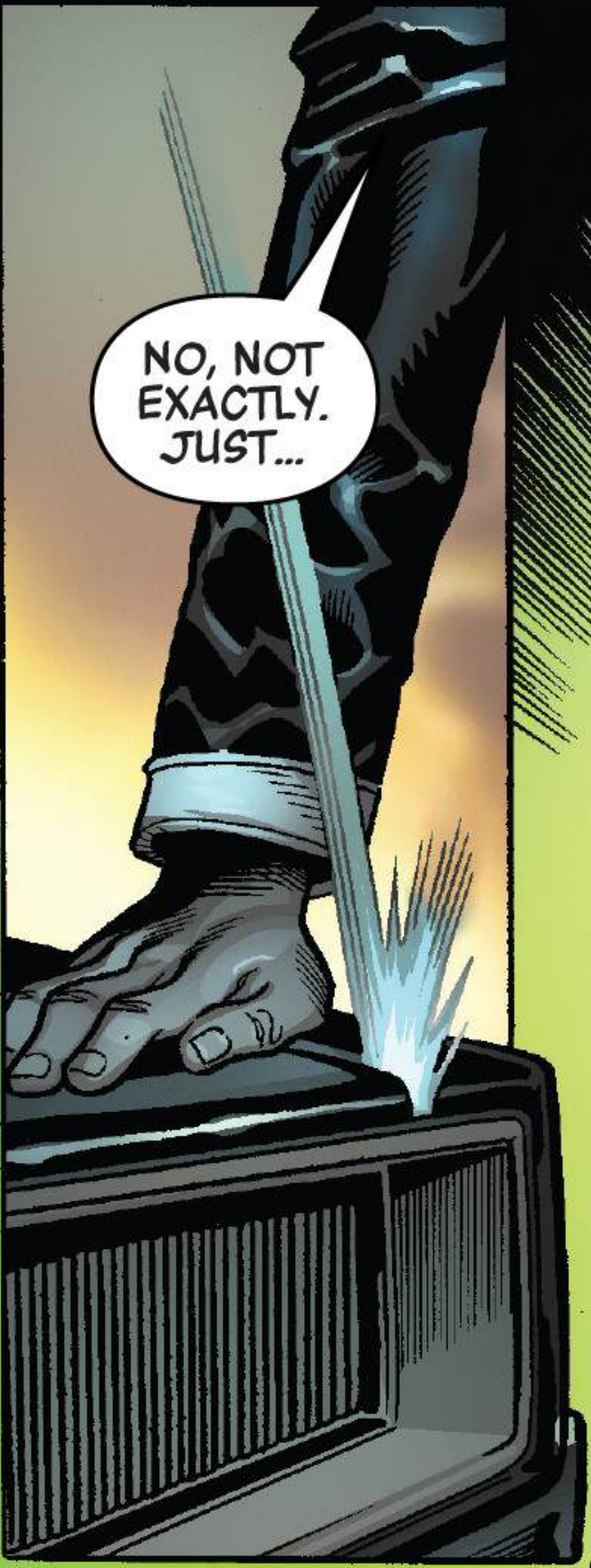
YOU
HAVEN'T
TAKEN ME FOR
A RIDE IN LIKE
A *MILLION*
YEARS.



I KNOW,
GABE, BUT IT'S
JUST...THE CAR
HAS BEEN
RUNNING KINDA...
WEIRD
LATELY.

EVEN
WEIRDER THAN
THE USUAL
WEIRD.

WEIRD?
WHAT, LIKE
THE ENGINE'S
RATTLING OR
IDLING TOO
HIGH?



NO, NOT
EXACTLY.
JUST...



JUST STAY
AWAY FROM
THE CAR FOR
NOW, OKAY,
GABE?

UNTIL I
CAN FIGURE
OUT...

...SOME
THINGS.

MANHATTAN.
THE UPPER WEST SIDE.



ALPHA FLIGHT STATION.
HEADQUARTERS FOR EARTH'S
PLANETARY DEFENSE AGENCY.

DANVERS TO
STATION. I'M
IN THE FIELD.
ANALYSIS.

ENERGY LEVELS
ARE STILL RISING
WITHIN THE ANOMALIES.
NEARING HYPERNOVAE
TERRITORY.

IN OTHER
WORDS, EACH OF THOSE
THINGS IS CHURNING WITH
THE POWER OF SEVERAL
TRILLION HIROSHIMAS.

NO CONSENSUS
ON WHAT THEY ARE.
QUANTUM DIVISION'S
THEORY IS IT'S A
TELEPORTATION LATTICE:
A FEW HUNDRED ACTIVE
HYPERSPACE WARP-HOLES,
WHICH SHOULDN'T
BE POSSIBLE ON
SUCH A SCALE.

I HAVE EYES
ON ONE. LOOKS
POSSIBLE TO ME. IS
SOMETHING COMING
THROUGH THEM?

THAT'S PART
OF THE THEORY. BUT
THE ENERGY BLOOMS
DON'T MATCH ANY ALIEN
CULTURE WE'VE EVER
CATALOGUED.

WELL,
WHOEVER
THEY ARE...

...I'M IN
POSITION TO
PUNCH THEM BACK
TO WHEREVER
THEY CAME
FROM.

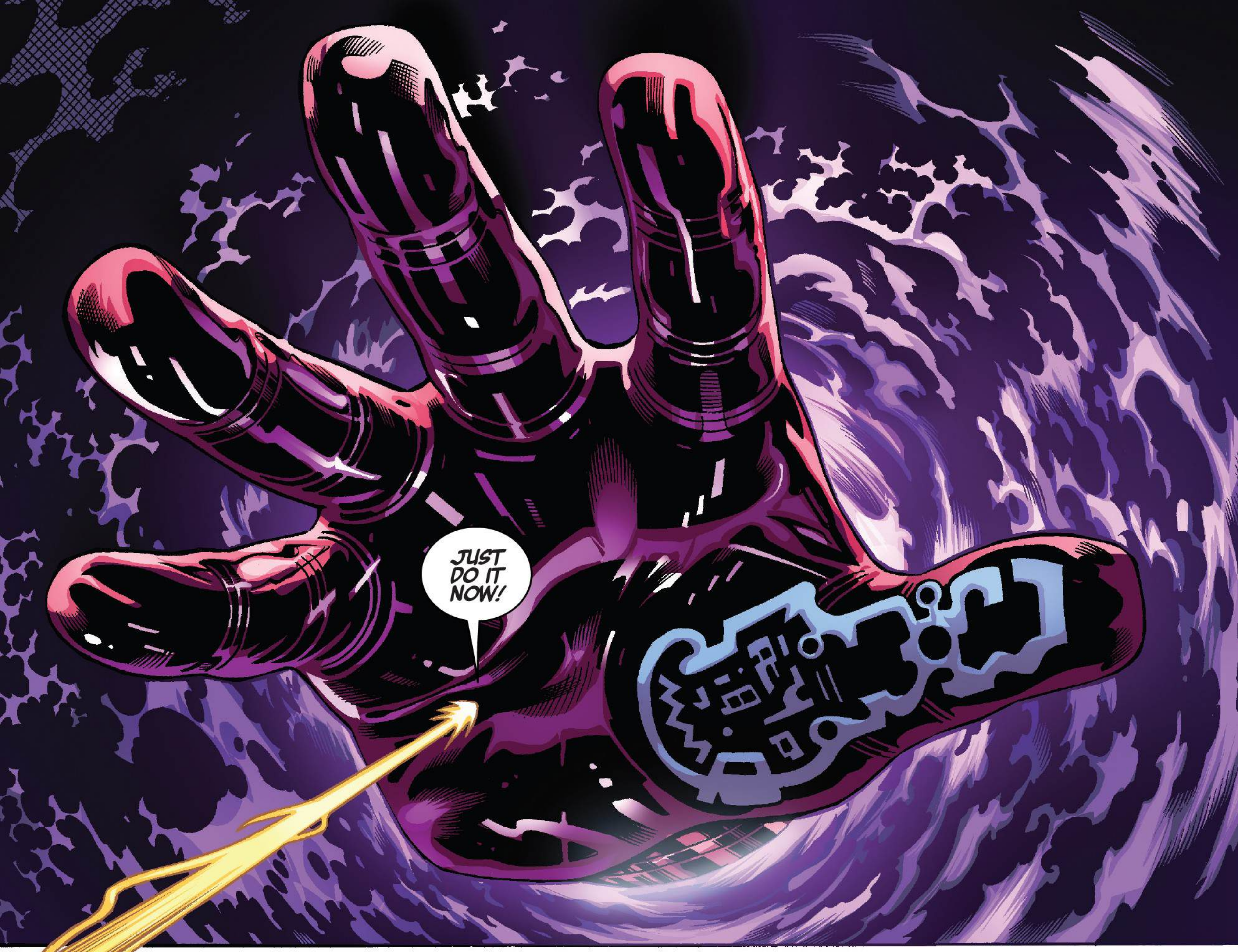
ENERGY LEVELS
SPIKING PAST OUR
CAPABILITY TO EVEN
MEASURE. COLONEL
DANVERS, YOU
SHOULD PROBABLY
GET--

WAIT...
SONUVA...

SOUND EVERY
GLOBAL ALARM
WE'VE GOT! IT'S
NOT AN ALIEN
ARMADA!

WHAT?
HOW CAN YOU
TELL?





JUST
DO IT
NOW!

MR. STARK,
THOSE ENERGY
ANOMALIES IN ORBIT,
THEY'RE ALL SUDDENLY
SPIKING. AND THEY
LOOK VERY MUCH LIKE
TELEPORTATION
NEXUSES.

SHORT THEM
OUT. USE EVERY
STARK SATELLITE
AND DISRUPTOR
DRONE WE'VE
GOT IN ORBIT.

I'VE ALREADY
TRIED THAT. IT
DOESN'T APPEAR
TO BE WORKING.



WHATEVER'S
CAUSING THIS, IT'S
A TECHNOLOGY FAR
BEYOND ANYTHING
WE'VE EVER
ENCOUNTERED.

WE'VE GOT
TO GET UP
THERE.

YOU SAID
TO MEET AT A BAR
IN THE VILLAGE! NOT
THE MOON! THIS QUINJET
ISN'T CAPABLE OF
SPACE TRAVEL!

I AM.

NO.
WAIT.

TONY, FORGET
YOUR APPREHENSIONS
ABOUT US! WE DON'T
HAVE TIME TO--

DAMMIT, CAP,
I'M SAYING WE WON'T
NEED TO GO UP THERE!
BECAUSE WHATEVER
JUST POPPED THROUGH
THAT PORTAL...

...IS ALREADY
COMING DOWN
TO US!



WE ARE MILES BELOW THE SURFACE. IF IT WEREN'T FOR MY MAGIC, THE PRESSURE HERE WOULD CRUSH ME INTO A PUDDLE OF GOO AND THEN THE AIR WOULD SET THAT GOO ON FIRE.

HOW ARE YOU NOT...?

NEVER MIND, I NEARLY FORGOT.

YOU'RE THE **BLACK PANTHER**.

THEY'RE NOT OF THIS WORLD.



THAT SEEMS OBVIOUS.

YET IT LOOKS AS IF THEY'VE BEEN HERE FOR QUITE A LONG WHILE.

I'M PICKING UP NO LIFE SIGNS. THEY READ AS DORMANT.

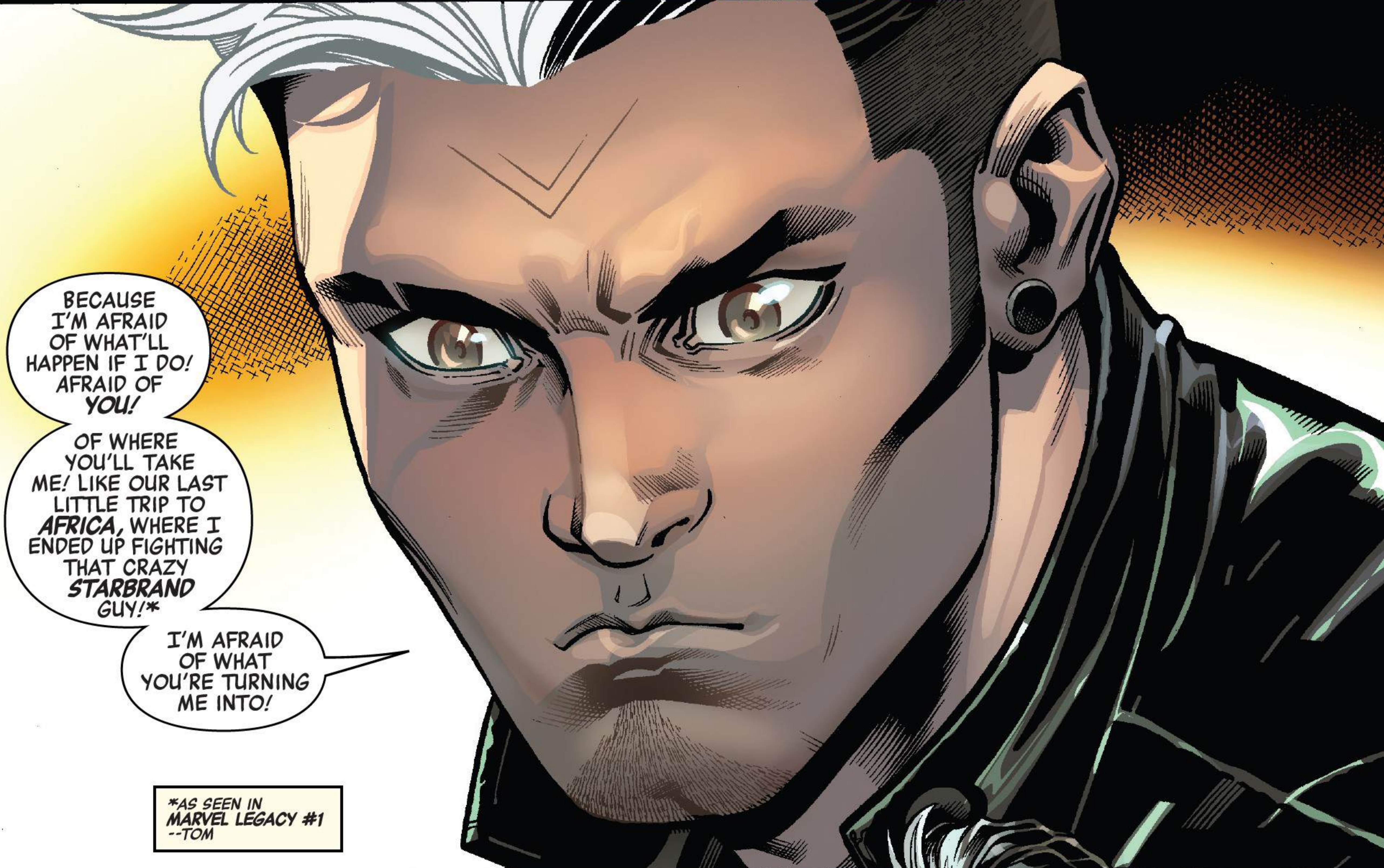
YES, TO ME AS WELL.



THOUGH IT APPEARS NOT ALL OF THEM GOT THAT MEMO.



I HAVEN'T SLEPT IN THREE DAYS. YOU KNOW WHY?



BECAUSE I'M AFRAID OF WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF I DO! AFRAID OF YOU!

OF WHERE YOU'LL TAKE ME! LIKE OUR LAST LITTLE TRIP TO AFRICA, WHERE I ENDED UP FIGHTING THAT CRAZY STARBRAND GUY!*

I'M AFRAID OF WHAT YOU'RE TURNING ME INTO!

*AS SEEN IN MARVEL LEGACY #1
--TOM



INTO A GUY WHO YELLS AT HIS CAR, I GUESS.

HIS DEMON-POSSESSED CAR.

BET THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF I DROVE A PINTO.



WHAT THE...?

ROBBIE! WHAT'S THAT SOUND? IS IT AN EARTHQUAKE?

I DON'T THINK SO, GABE. JUST STAY INSIDE!

HOLY
#&%&€!

IF YOU'RE
HERE FROM HELL
TO REPOSSESS THE
CAR, GO AHEAD AND
TAKE IT AND LEAVE
US BE!

BUT IF YOU
THINK YOU'RE
GONNA LAY A HAND
OR A CLAW OR
WHATEVER ON MY
FAMILY, THEN LET
ME TELL YA...

...WE'RE
ABOUT TO HAVE
SOME HELL OF OUR
OWN, RIGHT HERE
AND NOW!

THANKS TO THE

**GHOST
RIDER**





SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING.

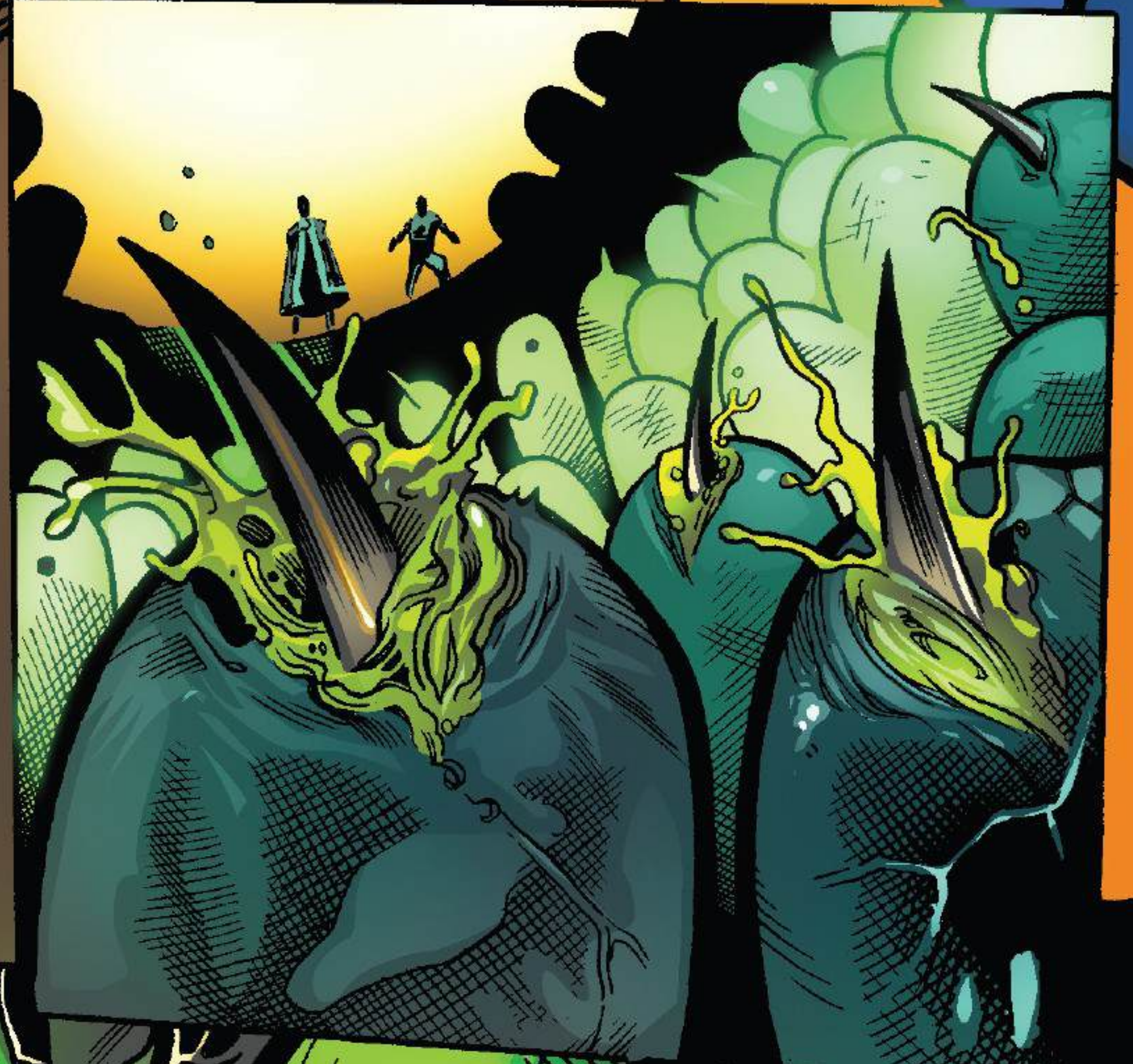
WHAT WAS
YOUR FIRST
CLUE?

ALPHA FLIGHT'S
GLOBAL WARNING
WAS JUST TRIGGERED.
THERE'S SOME SORT
OF DISTURBANCE
IN ORBIT.

AND THERE'S
ABOUT TO BE ONE
HERE. MY "**STRANGE
SENSE**" IS TINGLING
SOMETHING
FIERCE.

THAT'S
NOT ONE OF
YOUR--

WE SHOULD
JUST GET OUT
OF HERE,
T'CHALLA!



YES,
PERHAPS YOU'RE
RIGHT.





WHAT
IN THE...

IT'S
COMING
DOWN! HOLD
ON!

WHAT
IN THE
WORLD WAS
THAT?

NOTHING
OF THIS
WORLD, I
ASSURE
YOU.

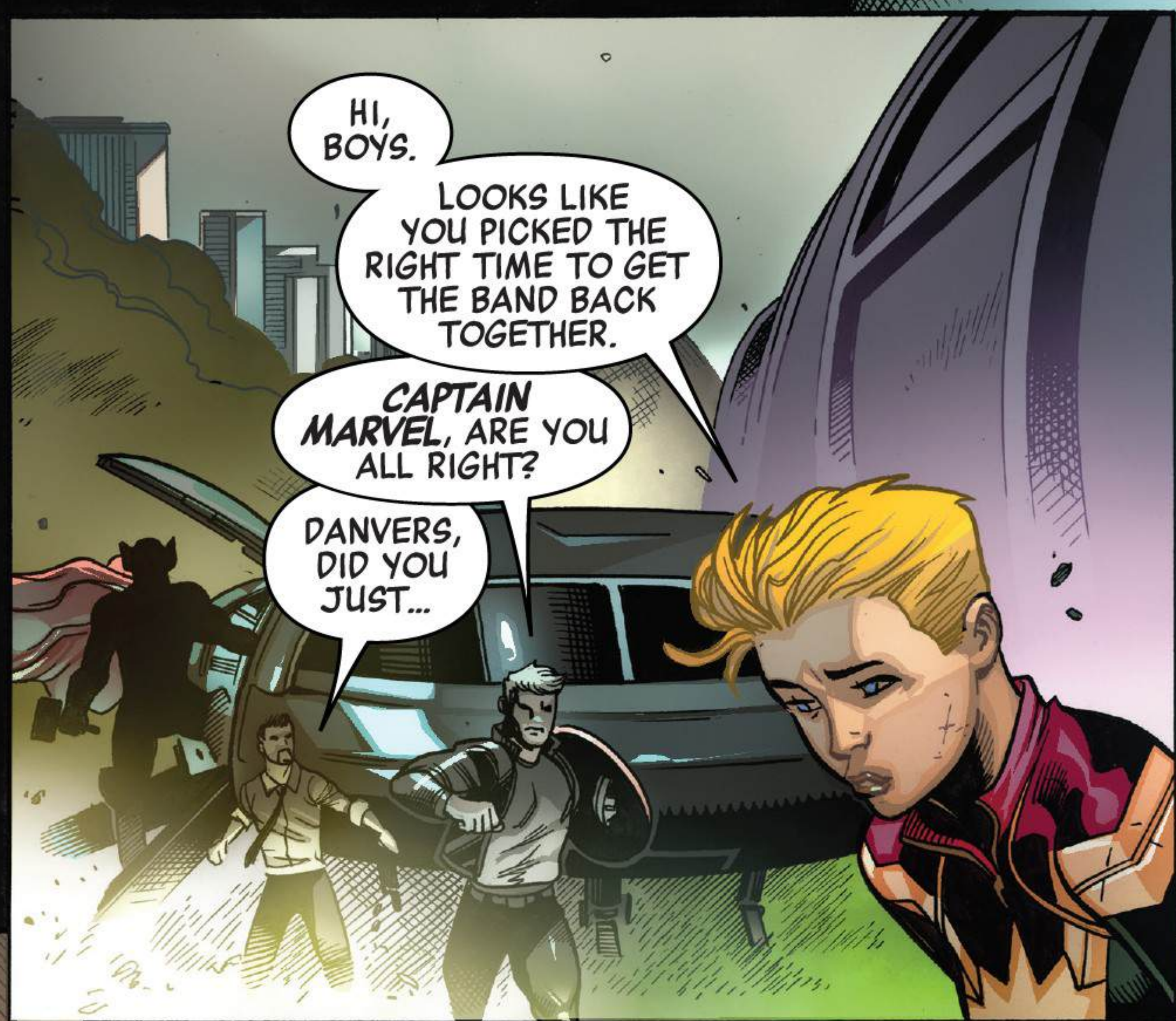
IT LANDED
ON THE EDGE
OF THE HUDSON.
I'M TAKING US
DOWN.

YMIR'S
BONES. IT'S A
CELESTIAL.

A RACE OF
ANCIENT, STAR-
SPAWNED SUPER-GIANTS
WHO JUDGE AND
DESTROY ENTIRE
WORLDS.

YEAH, AND
LOOK...

...IT'S NOT
ALONE.



HI,
BOYS.

LOOKS LIKE
YOU PICKED THE
RIGHT TIME TO GET
THE BAND BACK
TOGETHER.

**CAPTAIN
MARVEL**, ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?

DANVERS,
DID YOU
JUST...



...DID YOU
JUST **KILL** THAT
CELESTIAL?

NO. IT WAS
DEAD WHEN IT
CAME OUT OF
THE PORTAL.

ALL I DID
WAS KEEP IT
FROM LANDING
ON TIMES
SQUARE.

WELL
DONE, **LADY
MARVEL**.



NO TIME
TO STAND
AROUND AND
PAT EACH OTHER'S
BACKS. THE PORTAL
THAT THING CAME
OUT OF...

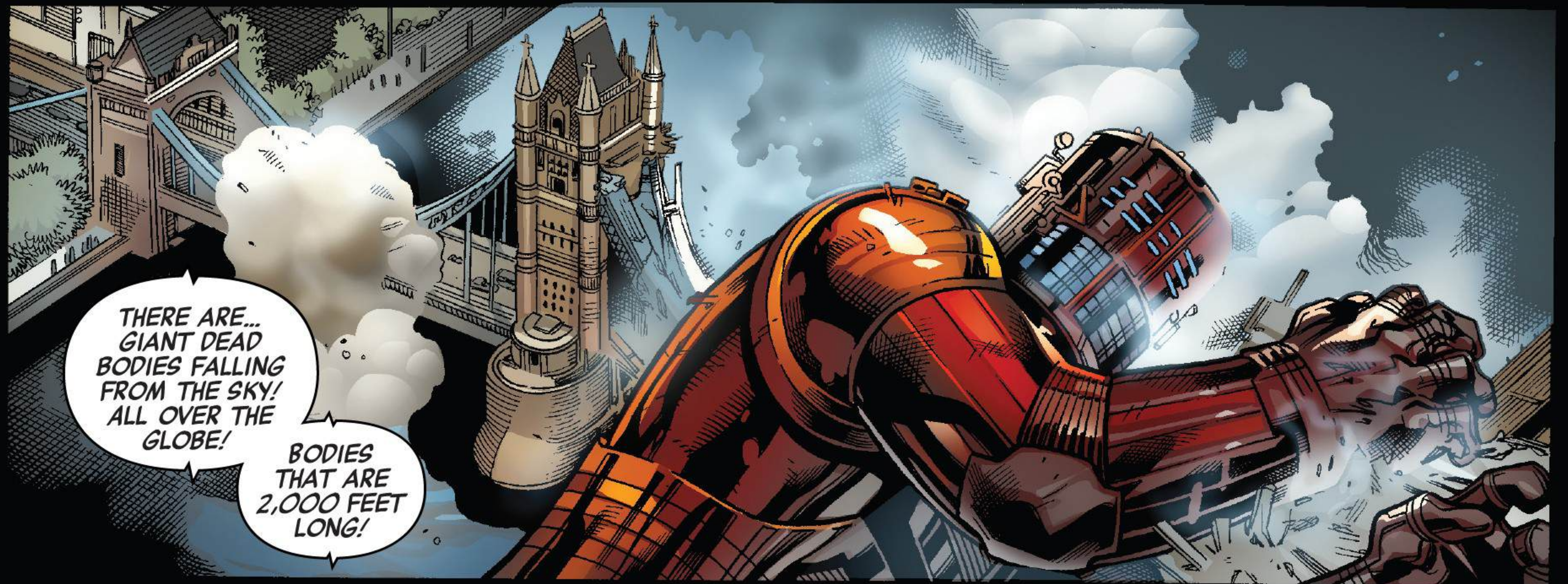


"...THERE ARE A
HUNDRED MORE
JUST LIKE IT!"



THIS IS
ALPHA FLIGHT TO
EARTH! TO ANYONE
ON THE SURFACE
WHO CAN
HEAR US!

STAND
BY FOR
INCOMING!



THERE ARE...
GIANT DEAD
BODIES FALLING
FROM THE SKY!
ALL OVER THE
GLOBE!

BODIES
THAT ARE
2,000 FEET
LONG!



WE'VE FIRED
EVERYTHING IN OUR
ARSENAL AT THEM, BUT
WE CAN'T EVEN DENT
THEIR ARMOR! WE...WE
DON'T KNOW WHAT
TO SAY, EXCEPT...

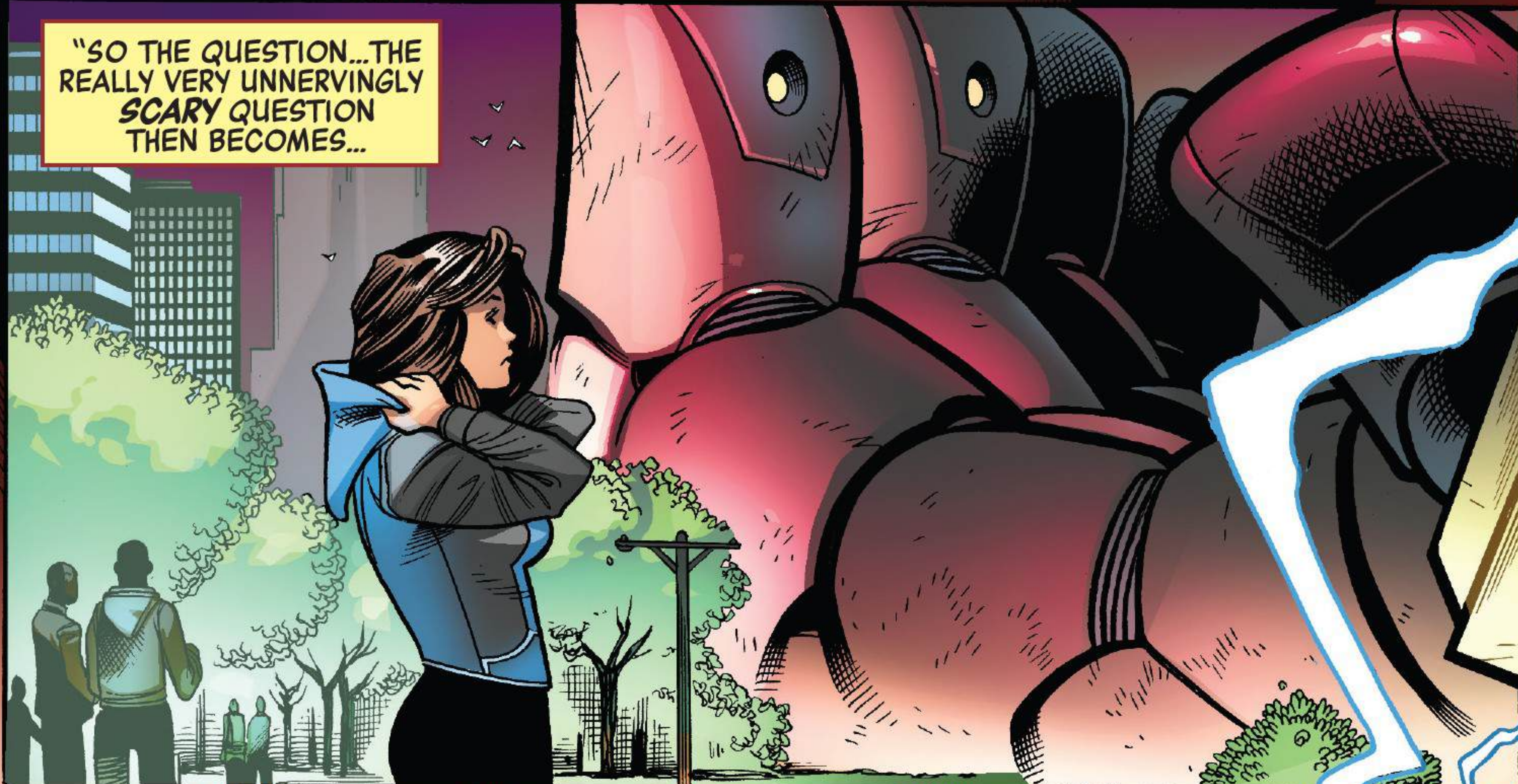
GODS BE
WITH YOU
DOWN THERE,
PEOPLE OF
EARTH.



IF THERE
ARE ANY
GODS LEFT
ALIVE AFTER
TODAY.



"SO THE QUESTION...THE
REALLY VERY UNNERVINGLY
SCARY QUESTION
THEN BECOMES...



"...IF THE CELESTIALS
ARE SO MIND-BOGGLINGLY
ALL-POWERFUL..."

ODIN'S
BLESSED
BEARD...



"WHAT THE
HELL IS STRONG
ENOUGH TO
KILL THEM?"

I THINK
THAT QUESTION
WAS JUST
ANSWERED FOR
YOU, TONY.

LOOKS
LIKE IT WAS,
STEVE.



EARTH, NOW.
THE FINAL HOST.

ANYTHING
ELSE YOU WANNA
ADD BEFORE WE DO
THIS, CAPTAIN
AMERICA?

ONLY ONE
THING COMES
TO MIND, IRON
MAN.

THEN SAY IT.
AND LET'S GET
TO WORK.

AYE!

ALL
RIGHT.





**AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE!**

2 STILL AVENGING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS



AND THERE
THEY GO. JUST
LIKE OLD TIMES.

THE BIG THREE,
TOGETHER
AGAIN. THE CROWD
GOES WILD.

ADVENTURE
AWAITS!
EXCITEMENT
ABOUNDS!
EXCELSIOR!



HEH. PARDON
ME AS I STIFLE
A YAWN.

BUT WE MUST
GIVE THIS AILING
REALITY OF OURS
THE TIME-HONORED
MEDICINE IT SO
DESPERATELY NEEDS,
MUSTN'T WE?

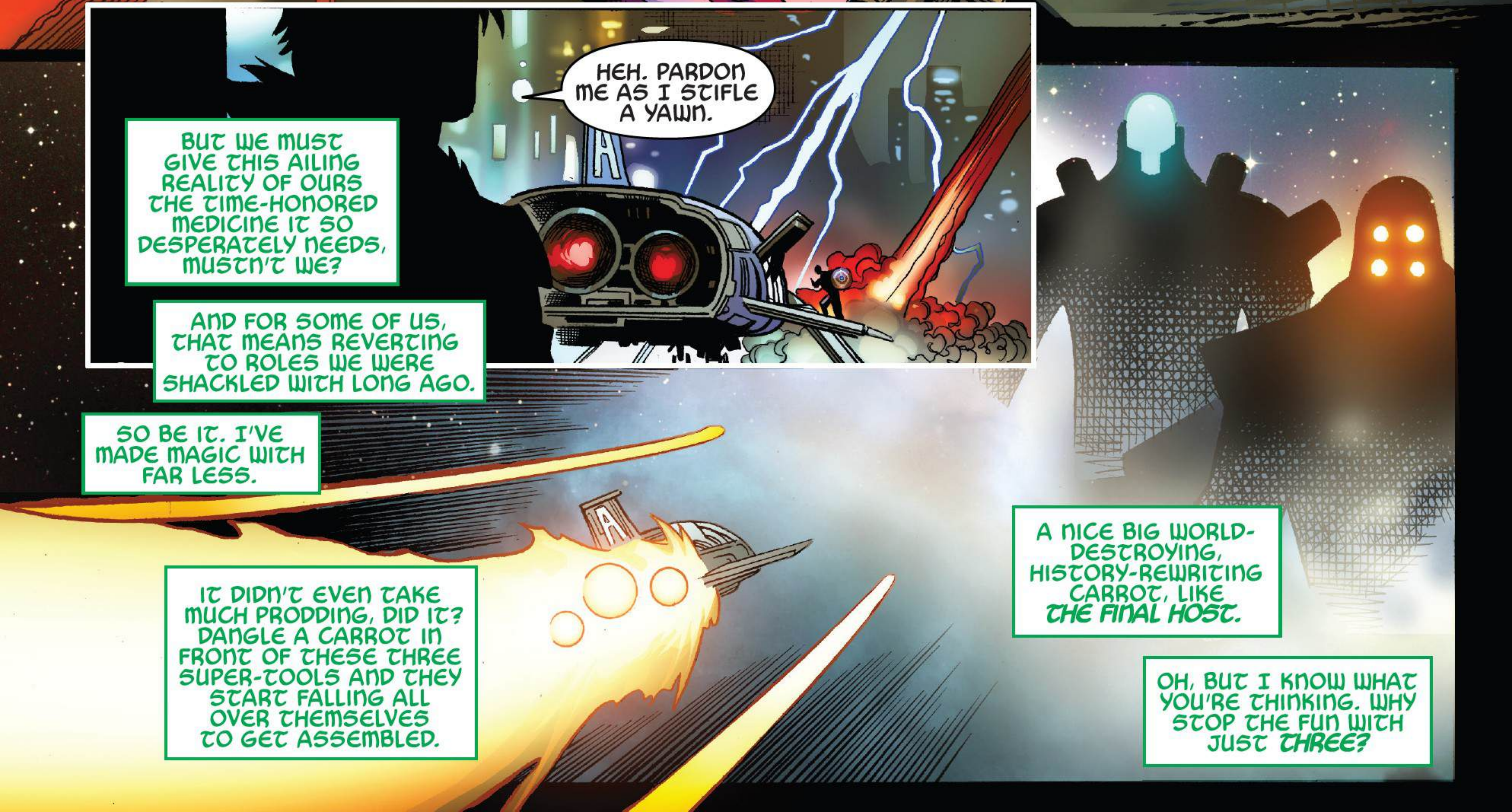
AND FOR SOME OF US,
THAT MEANS REVERTING
TO ROLES WE WERE
SHACKLED WITH LONG AGO.

SO BE IT. I'VE
MADE MAGIC WITH
FAR LESS.

IT DIDN'T EVEN TAKE
MUCH PRODDING, DID IT?
DANGLE A CARROT IN
FRONT OF THESE THREE
SUPER-TOOLS AND THEY
START FALLING ALL
OVER THEMSELVES
TO GET ASSEMBLED.

A NICE BIG WORLD-
DESTROYING,
HISTORY-REWRITING
CARROT, LIKE
THE FINAL HOST.

OH, BUT I KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE THINKING. WHY
STOP THE FUN WITH
JUST THREE?





BELIEVE ME, THERE ARE PLENTY
MORE MORONS OUT THERE WITH
ROLES TO PLAY, EVEN IF THEY
DON'T YET FULLY REALIZE IT.

AND AS WE SPEAK, THEY'RE
ALREADY DOING SOME
ASSEMBLING OF THEIR OWN.
DEEP BENEATH THE EARTH.

AND IN
THE SKIES
OVERHEAD.

SOME OF THEM ARE
THE USUAL SORT OF
SUPER SUSPECTS.
OTHERS, WELL...

IT'S ALWAYS GOOD
TO HAVE A FEW
SURPRISES IN THE MIX,
DON'T YOU THINK?



WHAT THE DAMN HELL...GIANT BUGS ATTACKING ME OUT OF NOWHERE.

WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN ME INTO NOW?! STUPID HELL-DAMNED CAR!

ROBBIE!



ROBBIE, THEY'RE SAYING ON THE NEWS THAT GIANTS ARE FALLING FROM THE SKY! WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?

JUST STAY INSIDE, GABE.

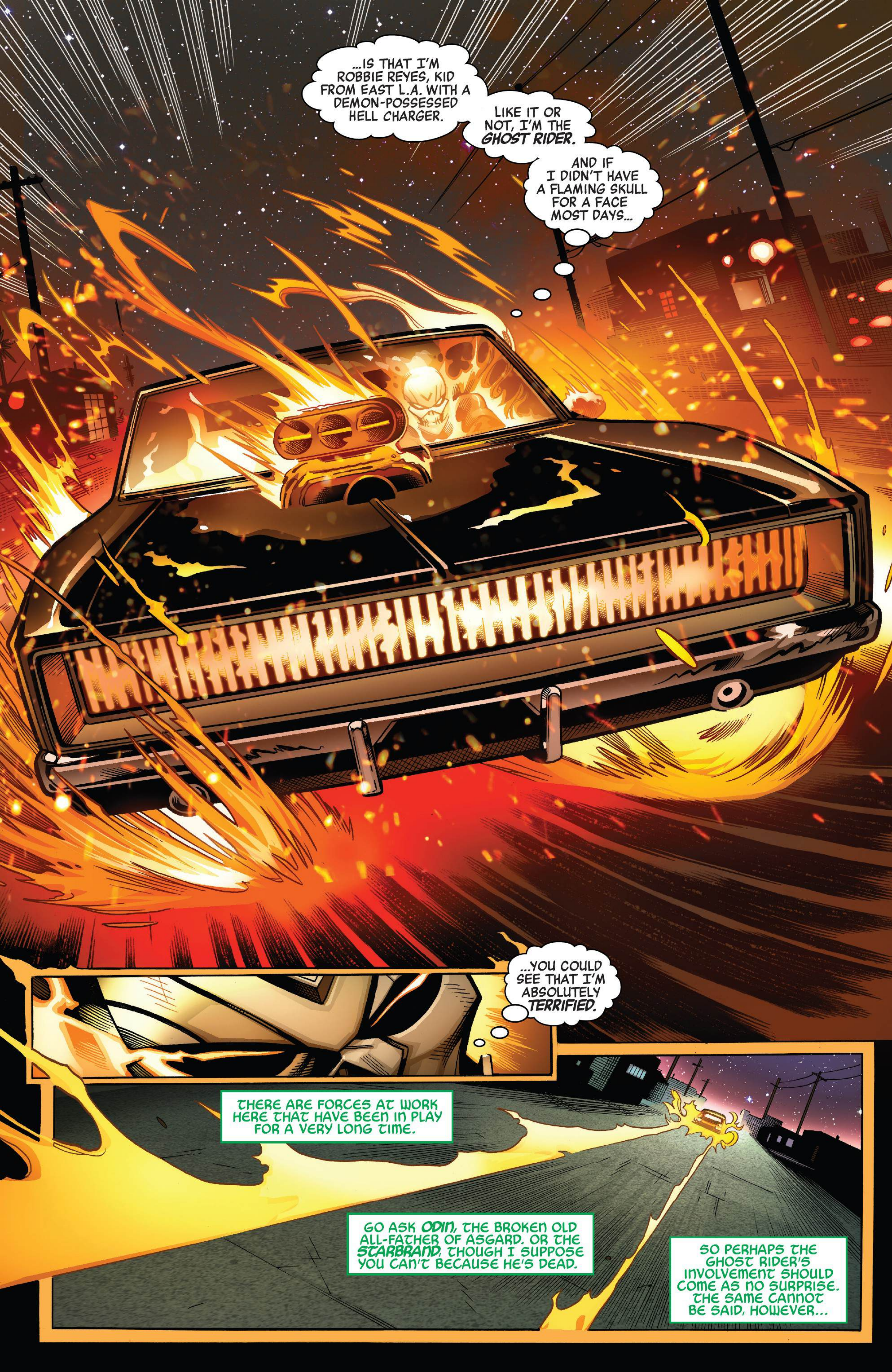
I'LL BE BACK. SOON AS I FIGURE THIS OUT.



ROBBIE, WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHY'S YOUR VOICE SOUND SO WEIRD?

DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL BE SAFE.

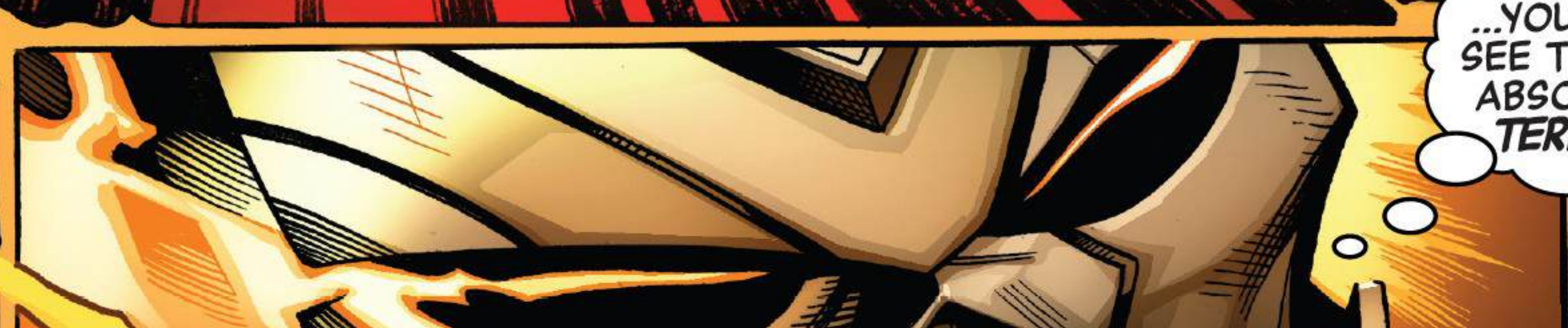
WISH I COULD TELL YOU MORE, LITTLE BROTHER. BUT LATELY ALL I REALLY KNOW FOR SURE...



...IS THAT I'M
ROBBIE REYES, KID
FROM EAST L.A. WITH A
DEMON-POSSESSED
HELL CHARGER.

LIKE IT OR
NOT, I'M THE
GHOST RIDER.

AND IF
I DIDN'T HAVE
A FLAMING SKULL
FOR A FACE
MOST DAYS...



...YOU COULD
SEE THAT I'M
ABSOLUTELY
TERRIFIED.

THERE ARE FORCES AT WORK
HERE THAT HAVE BEEN IN PLAY
FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

GO ASK **ODIN**, THE BROKEN OLD
ALL-FATHER OF ASGARD. OR THE
STARBRAND, THOUGH I SUPPOSE
YOU CAN'T BECAUSE HE'S DEAD.

SO PERHAPS THE
GHOST RIDER'S
INVOLVEMENT SHOULD
COME AS NO SURPRISE.
THE SAME CANNOT
BE SAID, HOWEVER...

...FOR ALL INVOLVED PARTIES.

WHAT...
IN THE CRAP?

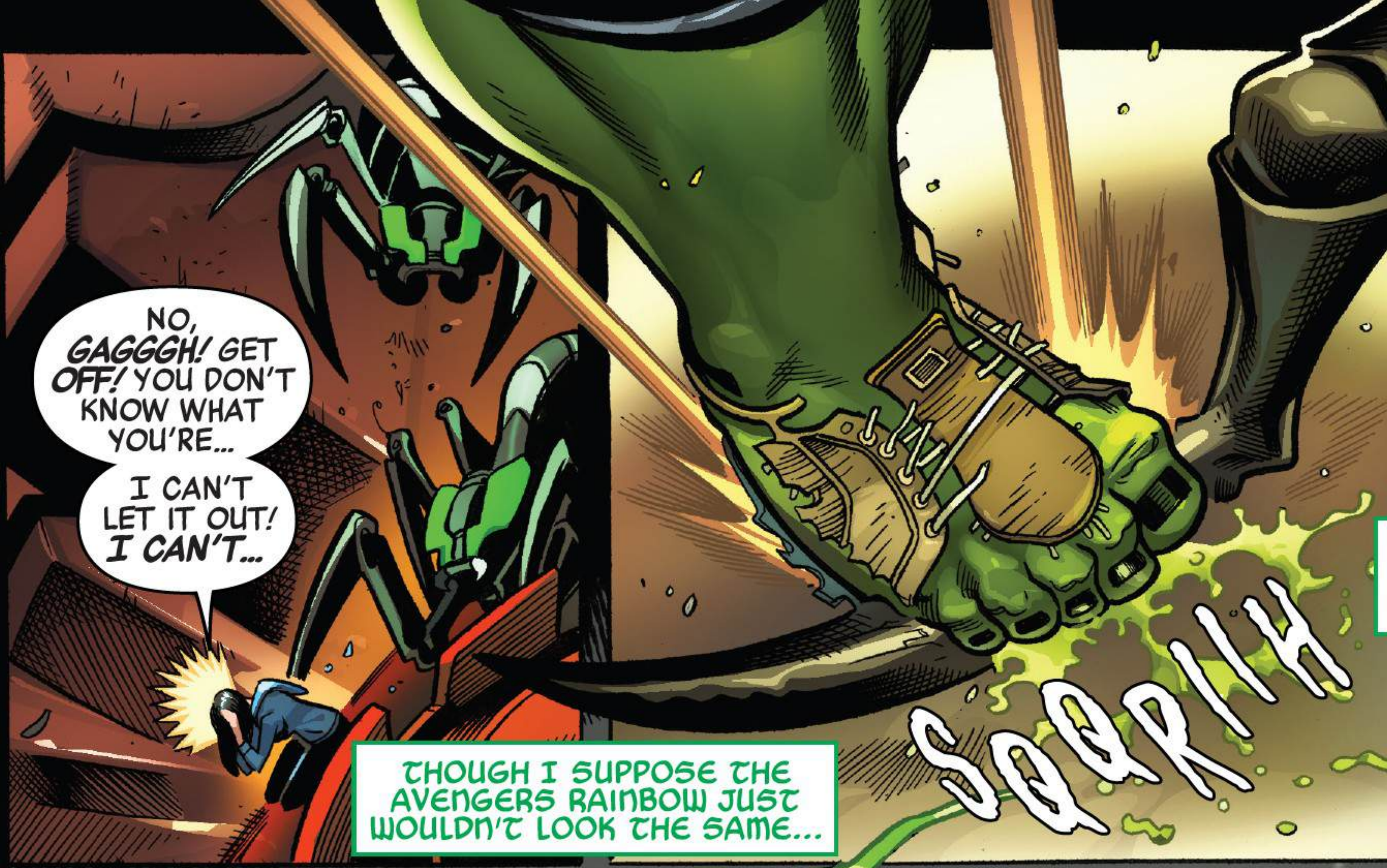
AND NO ONE IS MORE SURPRISED
BY **JENNIFER WALTERS'** SUDDEN
INVOLVEMENT IN THESE GRAND
PROCEEDINGS...
THAN JENNIFER WALTERS.

DEAD GIANT.
FELL FROM THE
SKY. WALK AWAY,
JEN. THIS IS WAY
ABOVE YOUR PAY
GRADE.

AND
SOMETHING LIKE
THIS REALLY WON'T
BE GOOD FOR YOUR...
DELICATE
TEMPERAMENT.

I KNOW ALL
THAT. SO WHY...
WHY AM I STILL
SO DRAWN
TO...

OH GOD.
THAT SETTLES
IT. I'M AN
IDIOT.



NO,
GAGGGH! GET
OFF! YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE...

I CAN'T
LET IT OUT!
I CAN'T...

THOUGH I SUPPOSE THE
AVENGERS RAINBOW JUST
WOULDN'T LOOK THE SAME...

...WITHOUT THE
USUAL SPLASH
OF GREEN.

SQUISH



HULK!
SQUISH!!!

TONY, WHERE'S THE WEAKNESS IN THEIR ARMOR?

MY A.I. JUST STARTED LAUGHING IN MY EAR, CAP. I THINK THAT MEANS THEY DON'T HAVE ONE.

I ONCE SANK A BATTLESHIP WITH NOTHING BUT A SHIELD. **EVERYTHING'S** GOT A WEAKNESS.

IN MY EXPERIENCE, NO CREATURE THAT HAS A FACE MUCH ENJOYS BEING **BLUDGEONED** IN IT!

HA! HAVE AT THEE, GIANTS!

BE JEALOUS LATER, TONY. RIGHT NOW I NEED YOU FOCUSED, AND SPOUTING THE KIND OF GOBBLEDYGOOK THAT'S GONNA WIND UP SAVING THE WORLD.

OH, I'VE GOT PLENTY TO SPOUT. MY SCANS OF THESE GUYS DON'T EVEN MAKE ANY SENSE. IT'S ALMOST LIKE I'M READING THOUSANDS OF DIFFERENT LIFE-FORMS INSIDE THEM.

WHATEVER THEY ARE, THEY'RE DEFINITELY NOT YOUR GRANDFATHER'S CELESTIALS.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE AS GOOD A PLAN AS ANY. THE MORE I SCAN THE ARMOR ON THESE THINGS, THE MORE I KNOW HOW CLAPTON FELT WHEN HE HEARD HENDRIX FOR THE FIRST TIME.

GOD, IS THIS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE JEALOUS? HOW DO PEOPLE LIVE LIKE THIS?

OH, TONY. YOU POOR, TIN-PLATED FOOL. THEY'RE MORE YOUR GRANDFATHER'S THAN YOU COULD POSSIBLY IMAGINE.

JUST NOT IN THE WAY WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOLD.

YOU... ARE THEIR LEGACY. THE WHOLE ROWDY BLOODY LOT OF YOU.

YOU ARE CELESTIAL MADNESS MADE FLESH. AND AT VERY, VERY LONG LAST...

THOR!

WHAKK



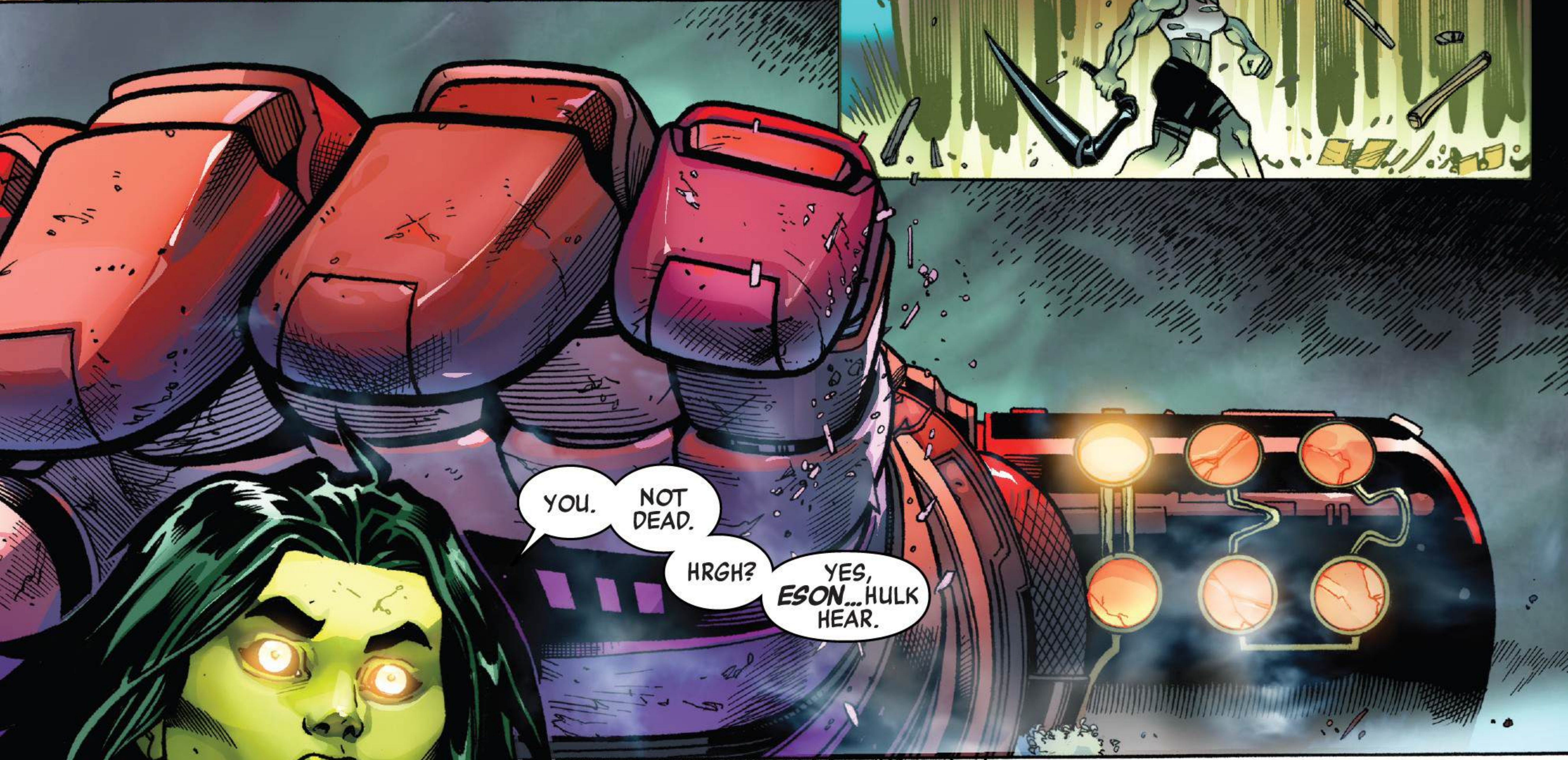
...THEY'VE RETURNED
WITH THE CURE.

RRRRGH!!!
HULK NOT AFRAID
OF BEDBUGS!

HULK FROM
BROOKLYN!

HULK
NOT AFRAID
OF ANY--

THOOOON



YOU.

NOT
DEAD.

HRGH?

YES,
ESON...HULK
HEAR.



HEAR
VOICE IN HEAD.
BUT HULK...NOT
UNDERSTAND.

WHAT...IS
CURE? CURE
FOR WHA--



FZZ

ZASH



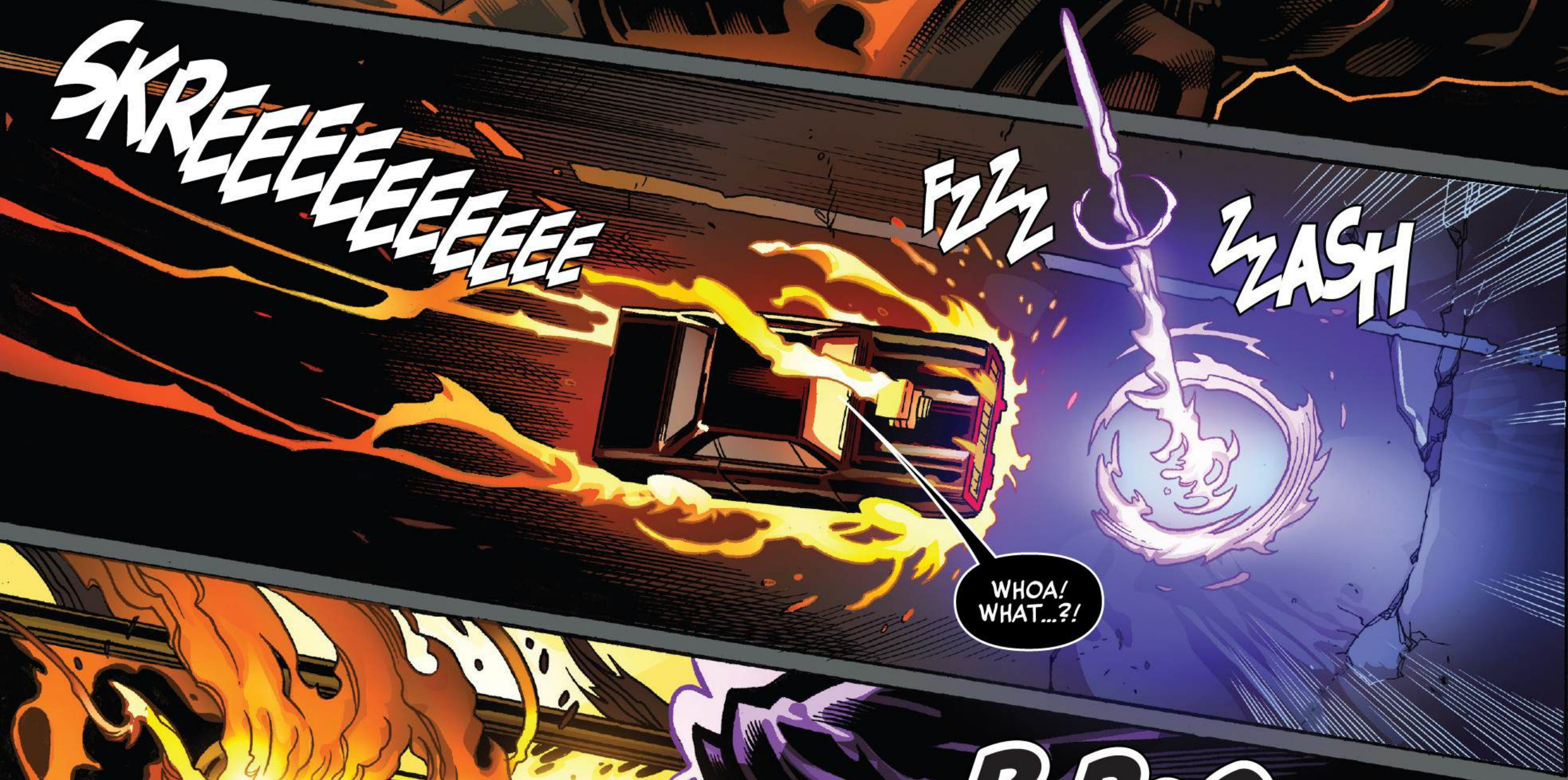
DAMN
IT, TALK
TO ME!



FOR MONTHS
THIS HELL-CHARGER
WOULDN'T SHUT
THE HELL UP.

AND NOW THAT
THERE'S GIANT
SPACEMEN FALLING
FROM THE SKY AND CRAZY
SUPER ROACHES TRYING
TO EAT MY BONES, MY
CAR'S SUDDENLY
GROWN *SHY*.

HOW THE
CRAP DID MY
LIFE BECOME
SO...



SKREEEEEEEEEEEE

FZZ

ZASH

WHOA!
WHAT...?!



RRGGGH!

OH YEAH,
SURE, WHY
NOT?



FULL POWER
TO THE REPULSORS!
POUR IT ON!

YOUR EFFORTS
APPEAR TO BE
REMARKABLY
UNSUCCESSFUL,
MR. STARK.

NOT TRUE,
MOTHERBOARD!
PRETTY
SURE I MADE
HIM BLINK!

CAP, WE'RE NOTHING
BUT GNATS TO
THESE GUYS! WE NEED
A NEW APPROACH!

AND I DON'T WANNA
HEAR HOW YOU ONCE
TOOK DOWN TWENTY
NAZIS WITH JUST A
POCKETKNIFE!

IT WAS THIRTY.
AND IF WE CAN GET
THESE CELESTIALS INTO
ORBIT, I'LL HAVE EVERY
MISSILE ON THE PLANET
LAUNCHED IN
MINUTES.

NO, WE NEED
TO FIGURE OUT A WAY
TO COMMUNICATE WITH
THEM. WE NEED JEAN
GREY OR THE ETERNALS
ON THE SCENE.

COULD BE
THESE THINGS
AREN'T AS
HOSTILE AS WE
THINK.

TELL
THAT TO
THOR.

KRRRK



YOU
FELLAS MISPLACE
A GOD?

THE ENEMY...
VERILY, I AM...
WEARING HIM DOWN.
SWEAR I FELT HIS
KNUCKLE CRACK.

DANVERS, IT'S
ABOUT TIME!
WHERE HAVE ALL MY
TAX DOLLARS BEEN
GOING?! WHY ISN'T
ALPHA FLIGHT
DEALING WITH THIS?!

WE ARE,
TONY. WE'VE GOT
OUR TOP AGENT
ON THE JOB.

DANVERS
TO STATION.
WEAPONS
PAYLOAD, ON MY
COORDINATES,
NOW.

I'VE DEALT
WITH CELESTIALS
BEFORE AND LIVED
TO FILL OUT THE
PAPERWORK.

YOU'RE RIGHT,
WE'RE NOTHING
BUT GNATS TO THEM.

BUT EVEN
GNATS CAN BE
ANNOYING.

IRON
MAN

ESPECIALLY
GNATS ARMED
WITH *OMEGA-LEVEL
WARP GRENADES*
ATTUNED TO THE
COORDINATES
OF *THE SUN*.



RRRRRGGGHH!!!

HULK
HATE PUNY
CAR!!!

BELIEVE ME,
I'VE TRIED TO
SMASH THIS CAR
MYSELF SO MANY
TIMES. BUT IT'S
EASIER SAID
THAN DONE.

EVEN
FOR THE
HULK.

HHRRRGGGH!!!

A HULK. OH MAN,
THAT'S NEVER GOOD.
QUICK, SAY SOMETHING
COCKY TO HIDE HOW
SCARED YOU ARE.

IF YOU
THOUGHT *THAT*
HURT, THEN TRUST ME,
LADY, YOU DON'T
WANT A TASTE OF
MY FIRE.



GRRRGH!

OR
MAYBE
YOU DO!

**HULK
SMASH!!!**

YEAH,
AND THE
GHOST RIDER
BURNS,
BABY!

I HATE
MY LIFE!!!

YOU'RE GONNA
TELEPORT THEM
INTO THE SUN?

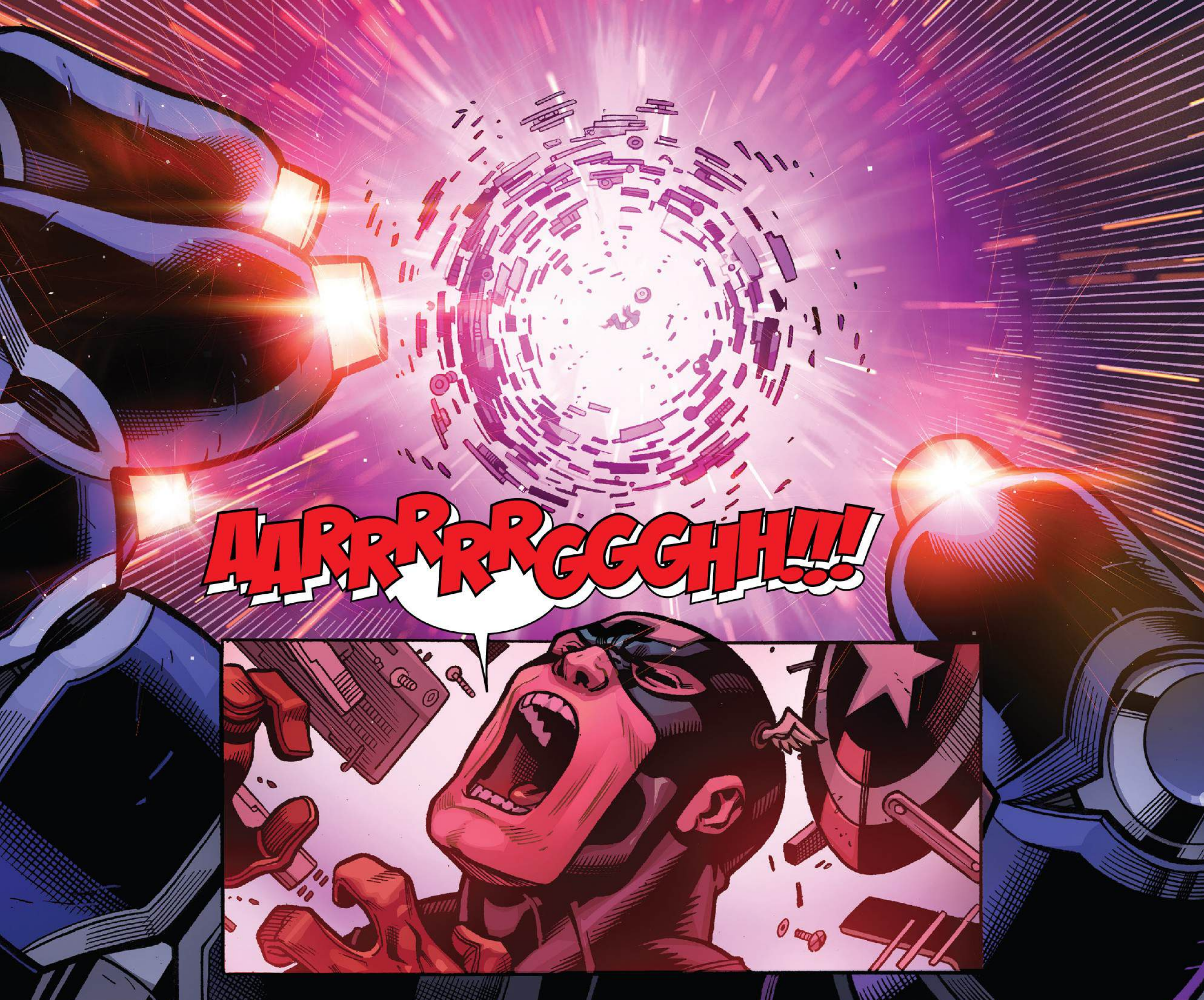
THAT'S THE
IDEA. ALPHA FLIGHT
CAN'T SHUT DOWN THEIR
ORBITAL WARP HOLES, BUT
WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO
SIPHON SOME OF THE
HYPERSPACE ENERGY
FOR OUR OWN
USE.

THESE GRENADES
ARE WARP TRIGGERS.
WHEN YOU SEE ME START TO
THROW THEM, I SUGGEST
YOU ALL MOVE ASIDE.
LIKE TO *JERSEY*.

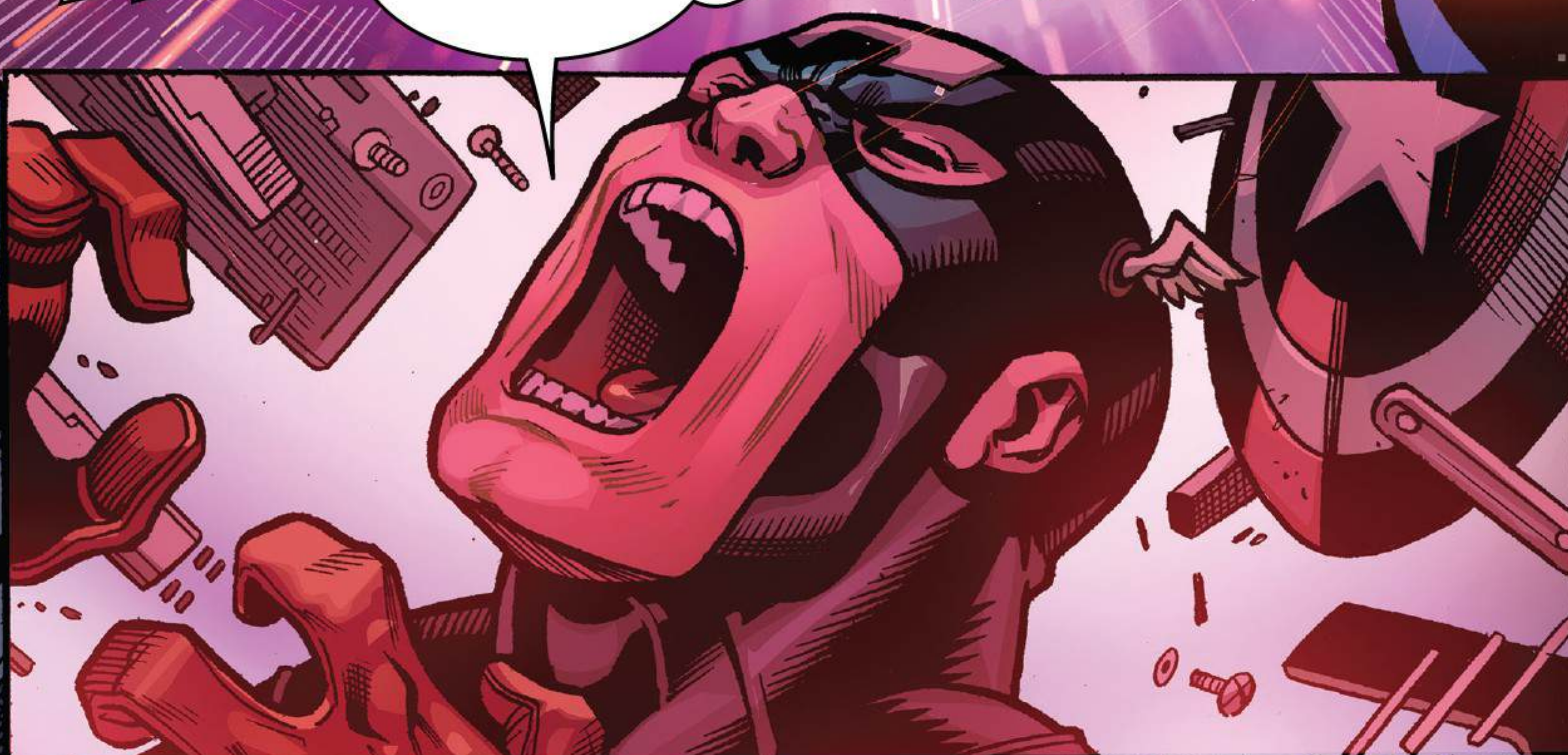
DO IT
NOW, CAPTAIN
MARVEL, BEFORE
THEY--

STEVE,
LOOK OUT,
THAT ONE'S--

STEVE!!!



AARRRRGGGHH!!!

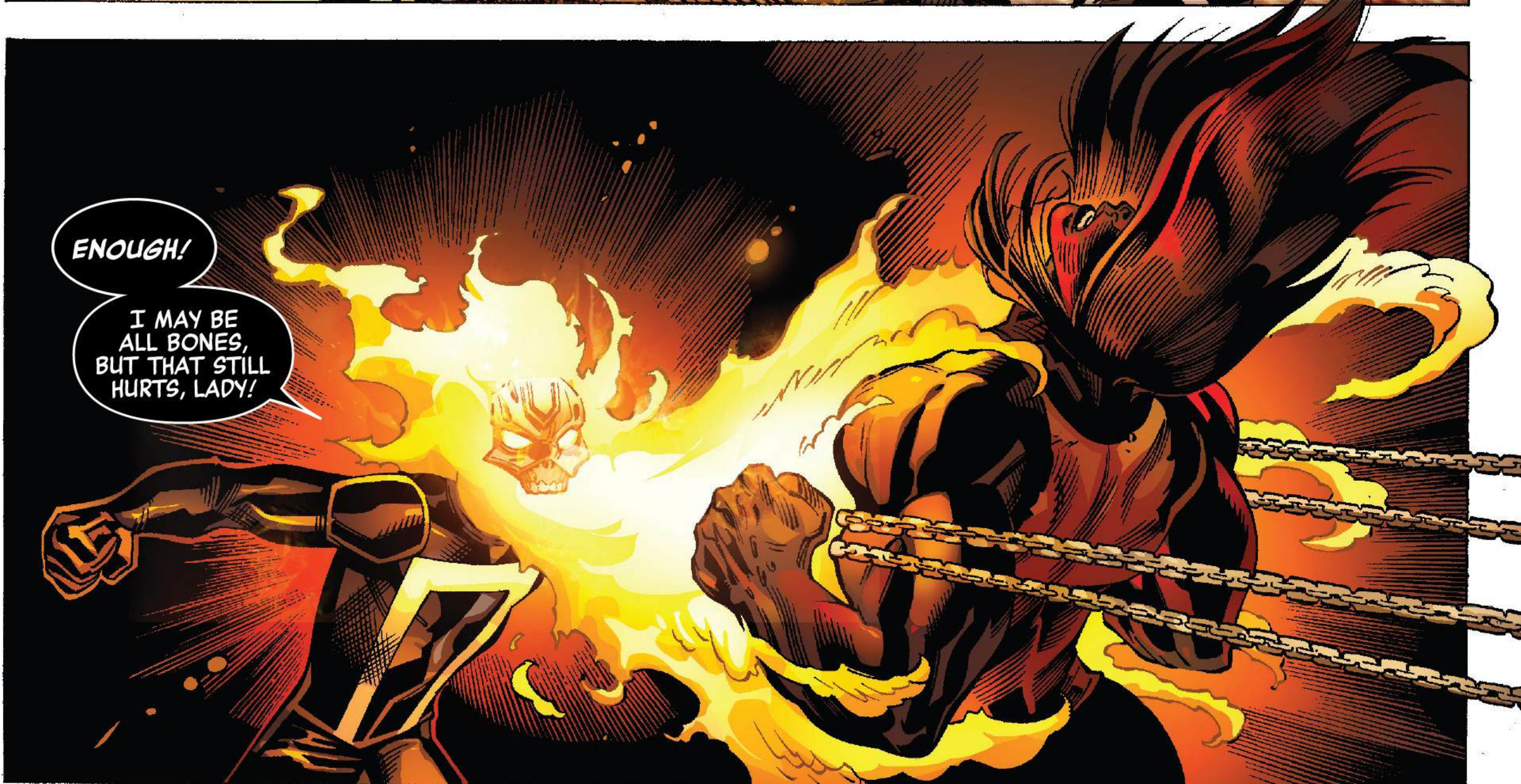


GET ROGERS
CLEAR AND I'LL
END THIS!

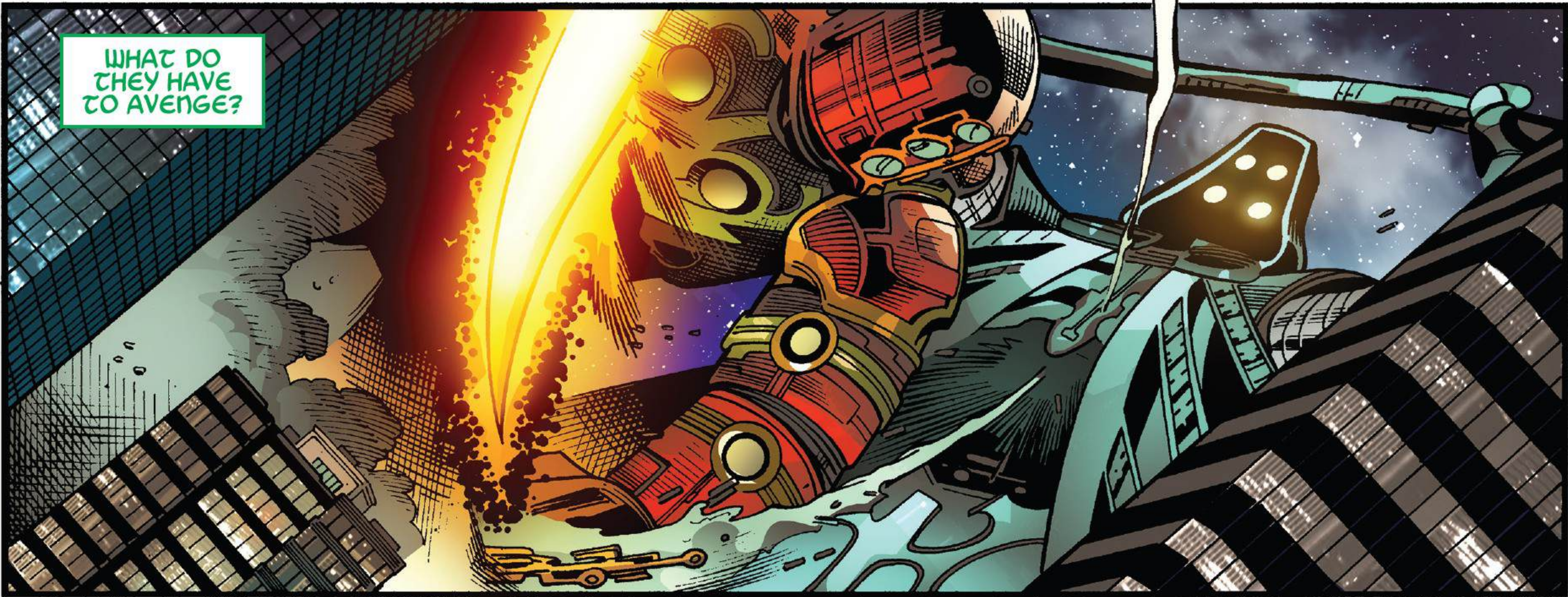
ON IT!
COVER ME,
THOR!

AYE! WITH
ALL THE STORM
I CAN MUSTER!
AND IT WOULD
APPEAR...

"...WE HAVE A
HELPING HAND!"





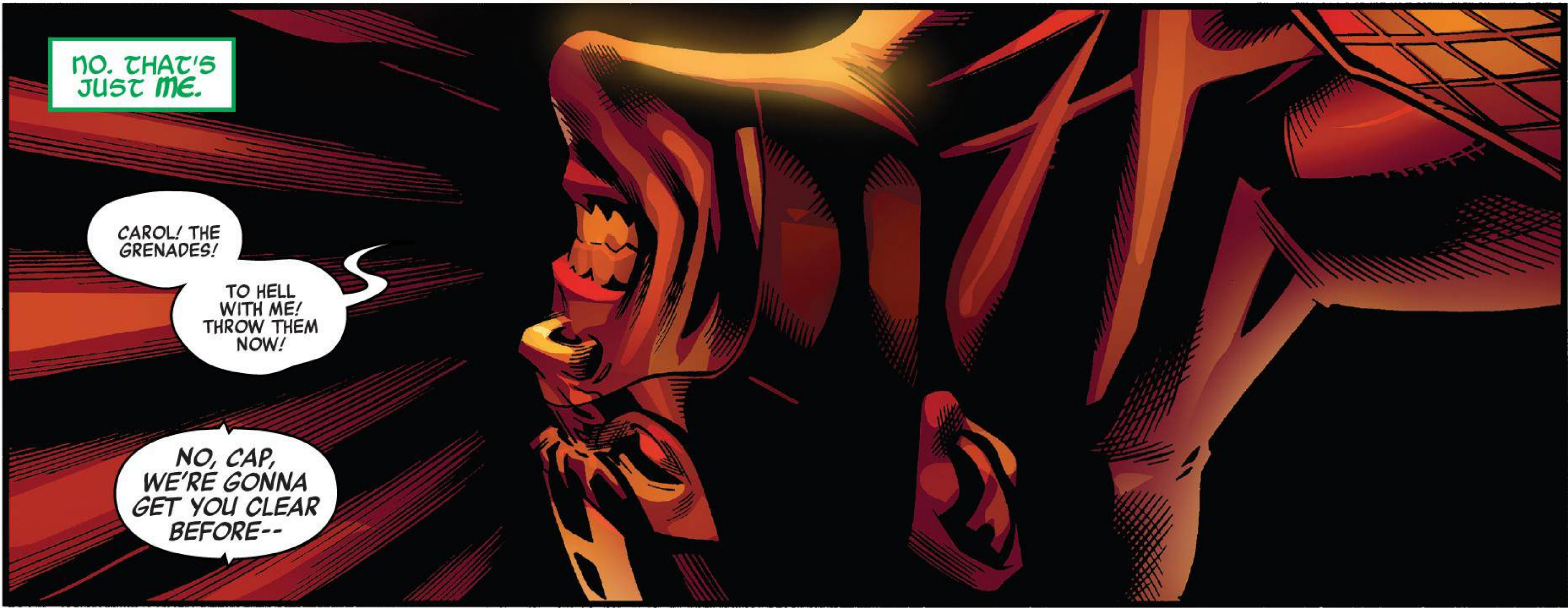


WHAT DO
THEY HAVE
TO AVENGE?



HAVE THEY BEEN SCORPED
AND REJECTED THEIR
ENTIRE LIFE, EVEN BY
THOSE THEY CALL FAMILY?

HAVE THEY BEEN HUNTED
AND HOUNDED TO THE ENDS
OF THE EARTH AND BEYOND?

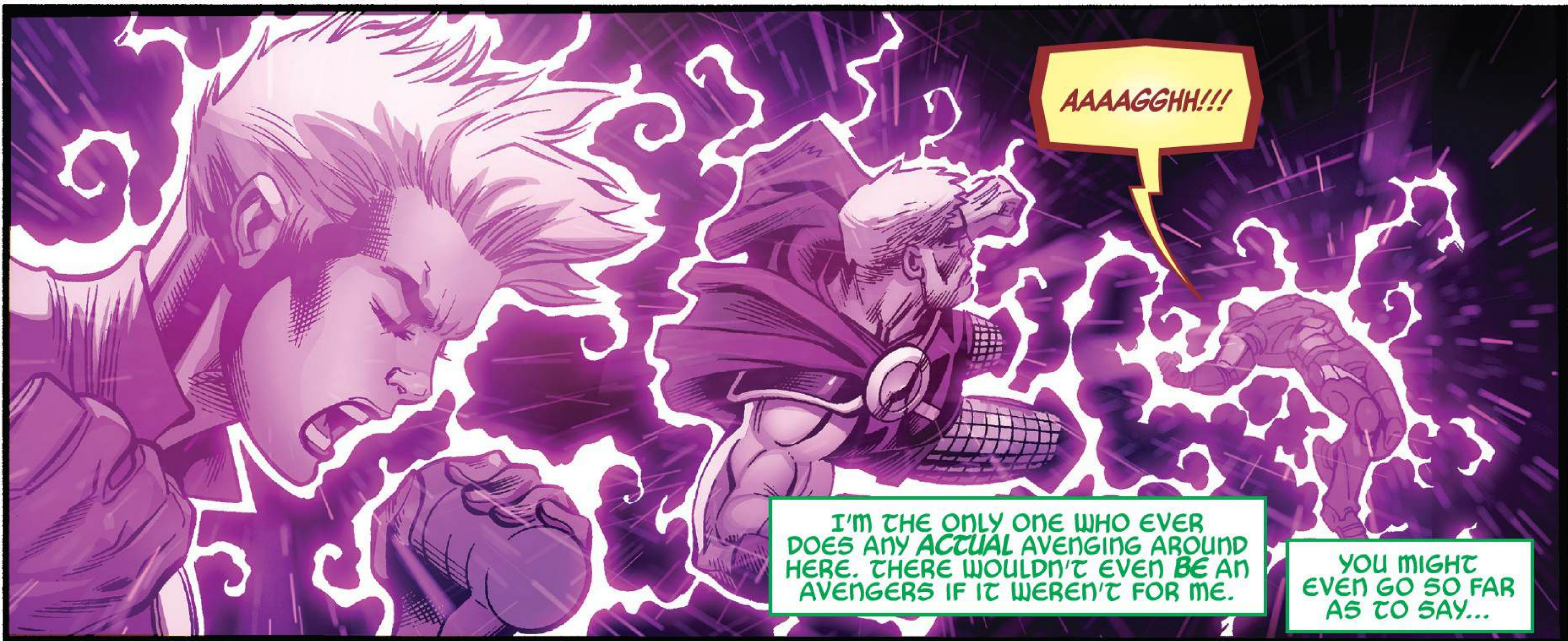


NO. THAT'S
JUST ME.

CAROL! THE
GRENADES!

TO HELL
WITH ME!
THROW THEM
NOW!

NO, CAP,
WE'RE GONNA
GET YOU CLEAR
BEFORE--



AAAAGGHH!!!

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER
DOES ANY ACTUAL AVENGING AROUND
HERE. THERE WOULDN'T EVEN BE AN
AVENGERS IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME.

YOU MIGHT
EVEN GO SO FAR
AS TO SAY...

...THAT
LOKI
IS THE GREATEST AVENGER
WHO EVER LIVED.

I SEE
YOU'VE ALL MET
MY NEW FRIENDS,
**THE FINAL
HOST.**

DON'T MIND
ME, I'M JUST HERE
TO LEND A HELPING
HAND AS THEY AVENGE
THE GREATEST
WRONG OF ALL
TIME...

...AND CORRECT
THE GRIEVOUS
MISTAKE THEY MADE
ONE MILLION YEARS
AGO. I SUPPOSE
YOU MIGHT
CALL IT...

...SALVATION
THROUGH **GLOBAL
EXTINCTION.**

AND
IT BEGINS
NOW.





GREG LAND, JAY LEISTEN & FRANK D'ARMATA
1 PARTY VARIANT COVER

3 WHERE SPACE GODS GO TO DIE



EXC 118!
AID
MORRIS J-P



RRRRRGGGH!

WE JUST
KILLED A BUNCH
OF GIANT ROACHES
TOGETHER. THAT
MEANS WE'RE
FRIENDS NOW,
RIGHT?

AND WE
DON'T SMASH
OUR FRIENDS, DO
WE, HULK?

HULK?

GAGGH!
VOICE IN
HEAD WON'T
SHUT UP!

OKAY,
THAT SOUNDS
BAD.

STUPID PUNY
DEAD SPACE
GIANT! STUPID
VOICE SAY...



RRRRRRRGGGH!

HULK,
NO!



GO TO HELL!

THE SCARIEST PART OF THIS WHOLE THING... IS THAT THE HULK SEEMS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON THAN I DO.

THAT WAS EITHER HER TELLING ME OFF OR INVITING ME ALONG. WHY DO I GET THE FEELING...

...I'M GETTING PUNCHED A WHOLE LOT EITHER WAY?

HELL, I COME!

NEW YORK CITY.

THIS...JUST
KEEPS GETTING
BETTER.

GRRRGH,
BROTHER!
WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?!

OH, YOU
CAN'T BLAME
ME FOR WHAT'S
HAPPENING HERE,
THOR. FOR THE
GLORIOUS COSMIC
DEATH RAINING
DOWN FROM
ABOVE.

I'M MERELY
A FACILITATOR.
THIS IS ALL THE
LOVELY MURDEROUS
HANDWORK OF THE
FINAL HOST.

HRRGGGH!

AND THIS
MOMENT OF
CLEANSING HAS
BEEN UNAVOIDABLE
FOR A VERY LONG
TIME. SINCE THE
DAWN OF THE
DISEASE CALLED
MAN.

I'M SURPRISED
YOUR BELOVED
ALL-FATHER ODIN
NEVER TOLD YOU,
BROTHER. PERHAPS
LOKI ISN'T THE ONLY
GOD OF LIES.

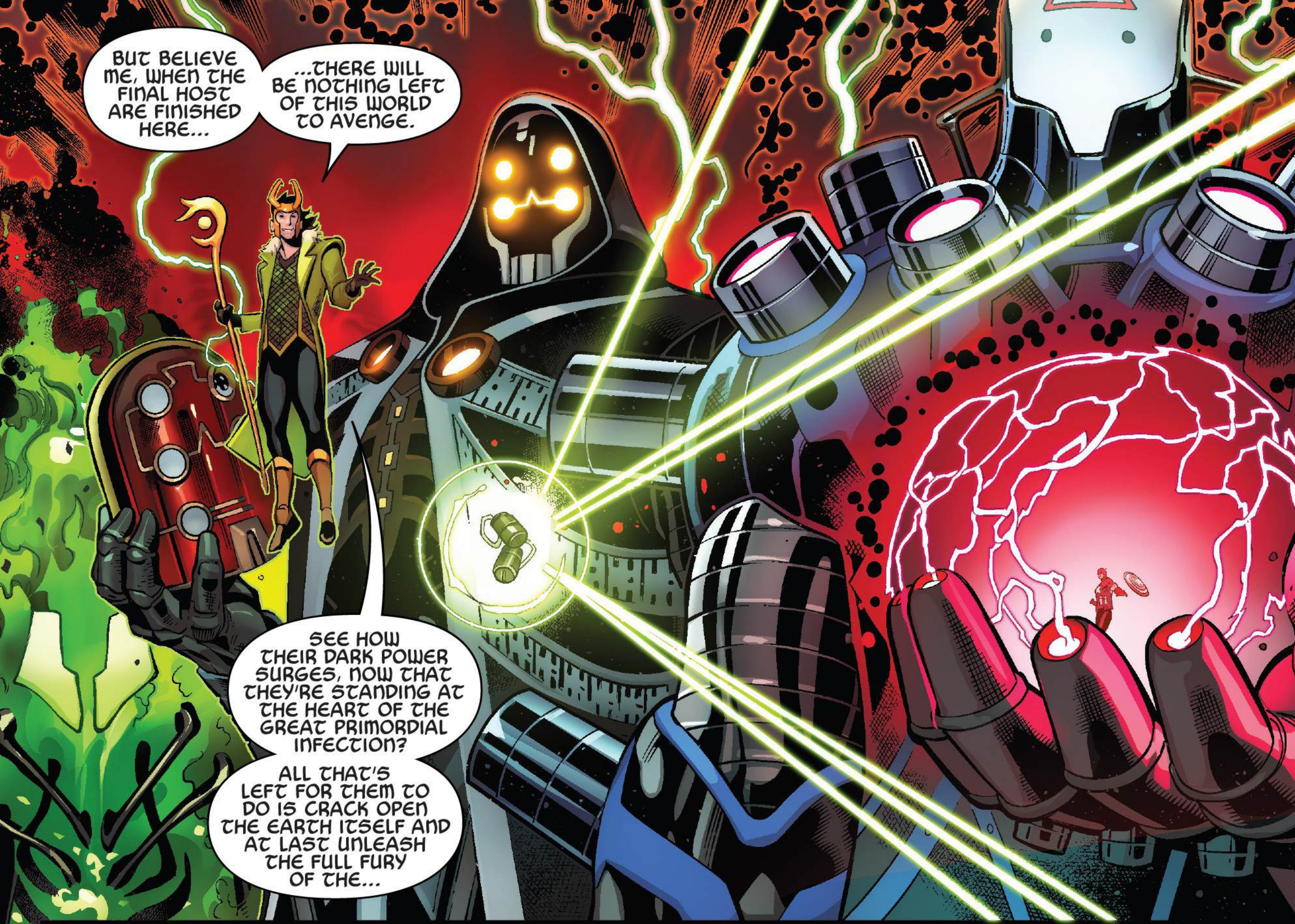
BY THE WAY,
I'LL TAKE THOSE
WARP GRENADES OF
YOURS IF YOU DON'T
MIND, MY LADY
DANVERS.

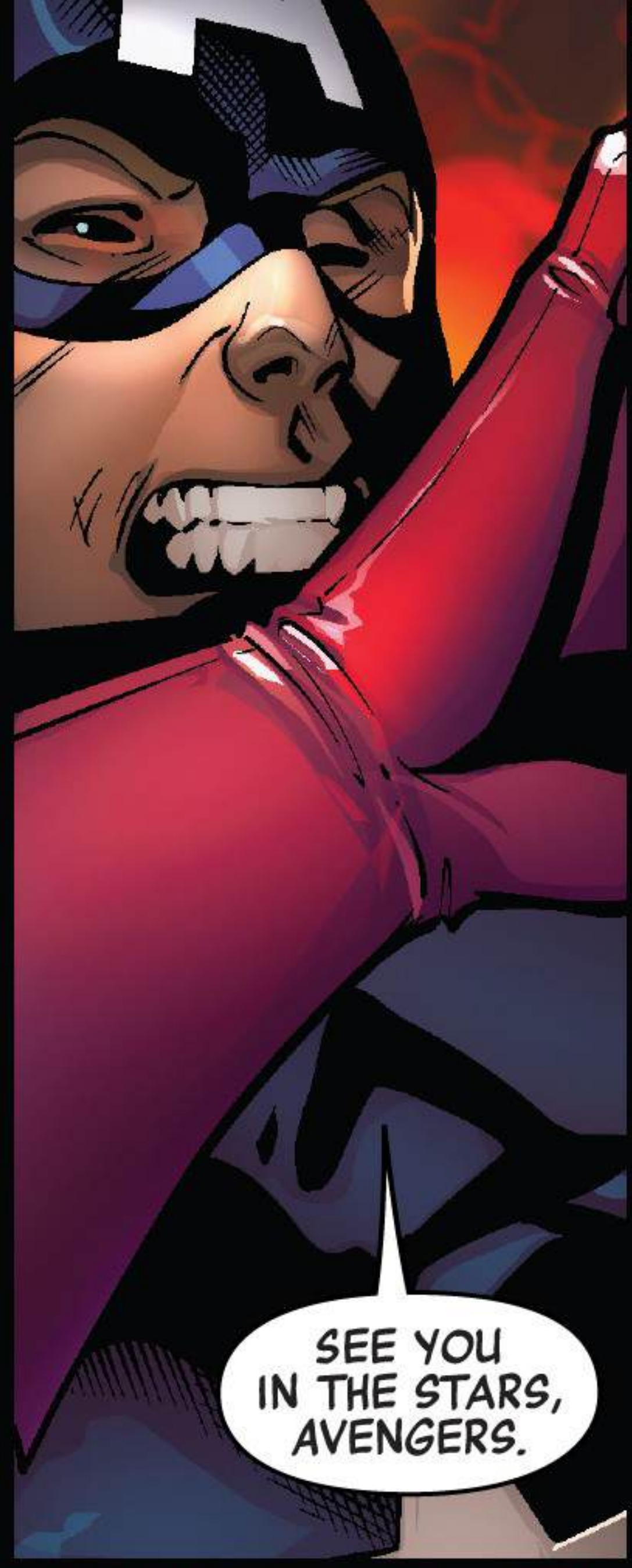
I DO MIND...
QUITE A DAMN--
GAGGH!

I WILL
SLAY YOU FOR
THIS, BROTHER.
A THOUSAND
TIMES OVER!

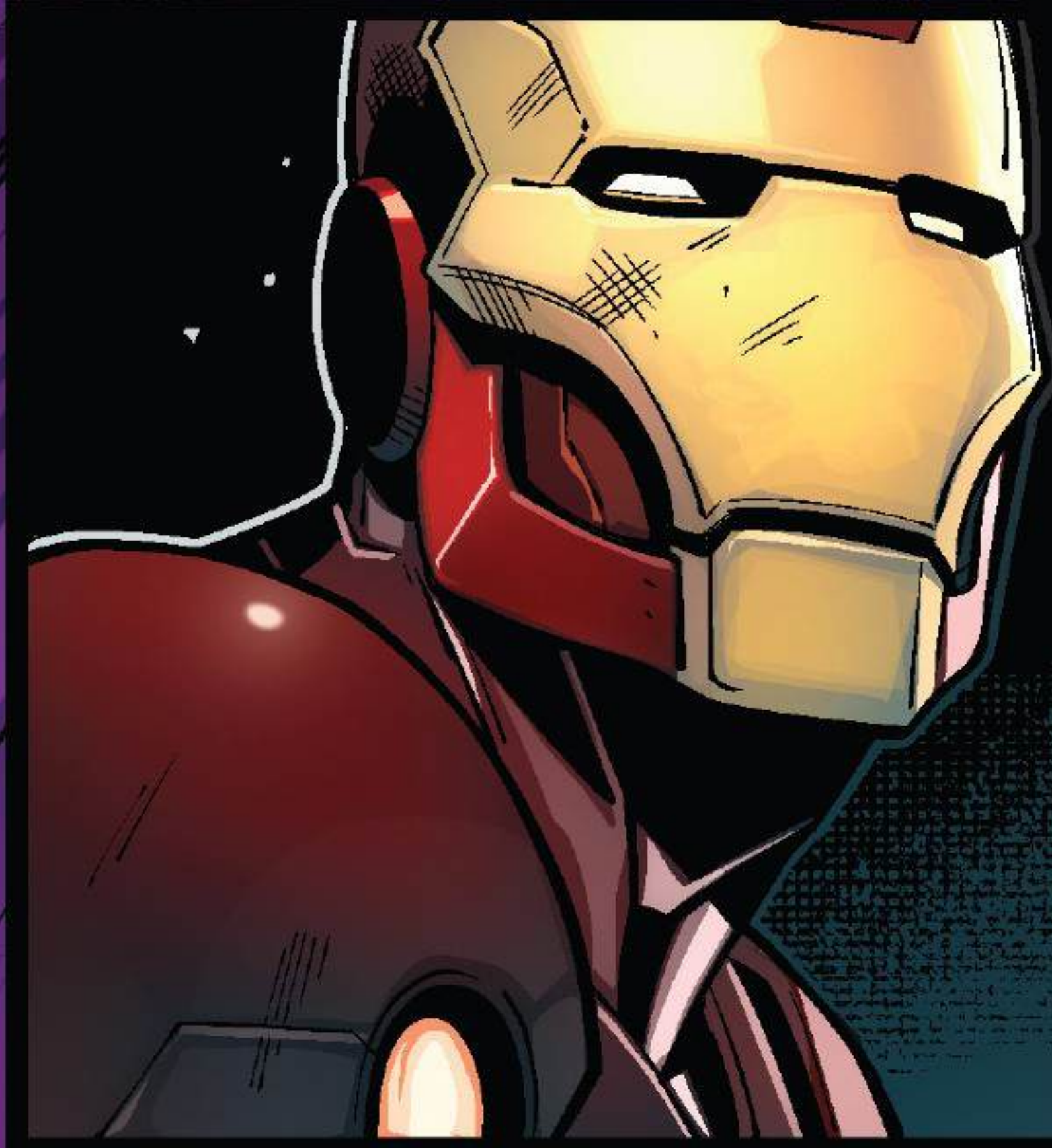
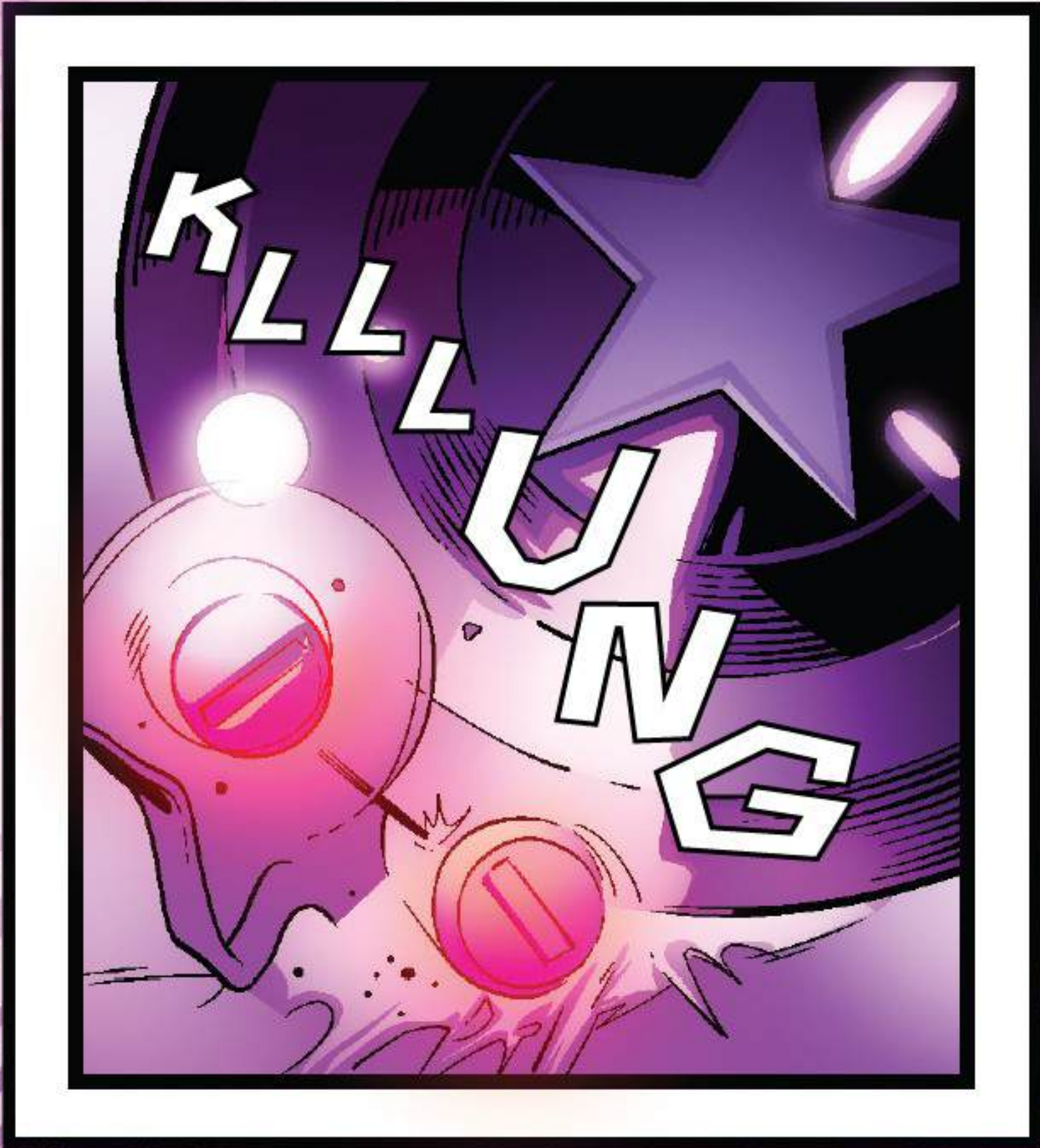
YES, I'M
SURE YOU WILL
TRY. YOU ARE
THE AVENGERS,
AFTER ALL.

ACTUALLY I
NEVER OFFICIALLY
AGREED TO...
GUUGH!





SEE YOU
IN THE STARS,
AVENGERS.



CAP!!!

WHERE...
WHERE HAVE
THEY GONE?

I-IF THE
WARP GRENADES
WORKED...INTO
THE SUN.









WAKE UP, CAPTAIN.

WHA...

YOU'LL WANT TO SEE THIS.



IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU GET TO SEE A STAR FROM THE INSIDE.

HOW...

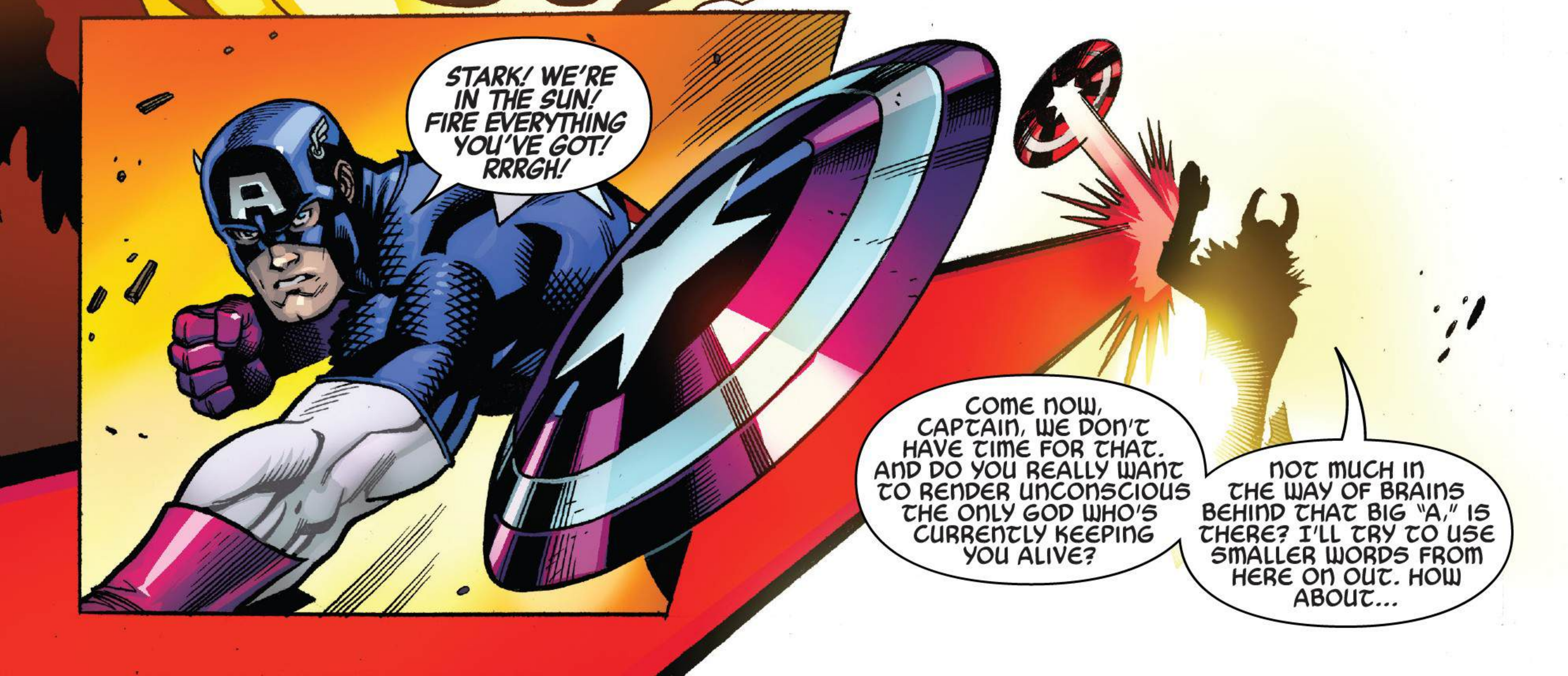
WE'RE... INSIDE THE SUN.



YES, AND YOU'RE QUITE WELCOME, BY THE WAY, FOR SAVING YOUR LIFE.

LUCKILY FOR YOU, IT'S QUITE DIFFICULT TO MURDER A SORCERER OF MY CALIBER...NOT THAT THERE ARE ANY OTHER SORCERERS OF MY CALIBER, MIND YOU... EVEN BY THROWING SAID SORCERER INTO THE SUN.

YOU NAUGHTY STAR-SPANGLED BOY YOU.



STARK! WE'RE IN THE SUN! FIRE EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT! RRRGH!

COME NOW, CAPTAIN, WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT. AND DO YOU REALLY WANT TO RENDER UNCONSCIOUS THE ONLY GOD WHO'S CURRENTLY KEEPING YOU ALIVE?

NOT MUCH IN THE WAY OF BRAINS BEHIND THAT BIG "A," IS THERE? I'LL TRY TO USE SMALLER WORDS FROM HERE ON OUT. HOW ABOUT...



GAAARRRGH!

DOESN'T
MATTER WHAT
HAPPENS TO ME.
AVENGERS...WON'T
STOP FIGHTING.

FIGHTING?
HA. YOU CALL
THAT A FIGHT,
WHAT WE JUST
WITNESSED
BACK ON
MIDGARD?

I SUPPOSE
YOU ALSO BELIEVE
A FLY CAN FIGHT
AGAINST A
THUNDERSTORM?

DEPENDS...
ON THE FLY.

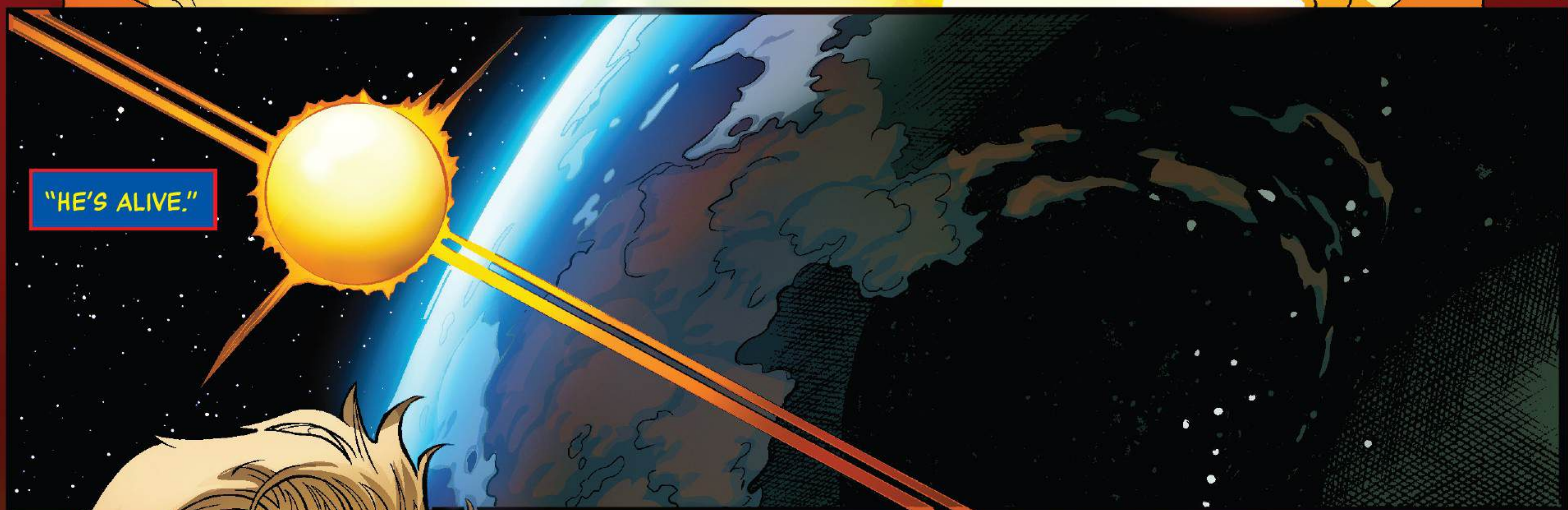
WELL, I HATE
TO DISAPPOINT
YOU, LITTLE BUG,
BUT THERE WILL BE NO
BATTLE BETWEEN
THE AVENGERS AND
THE FINAL HOST.

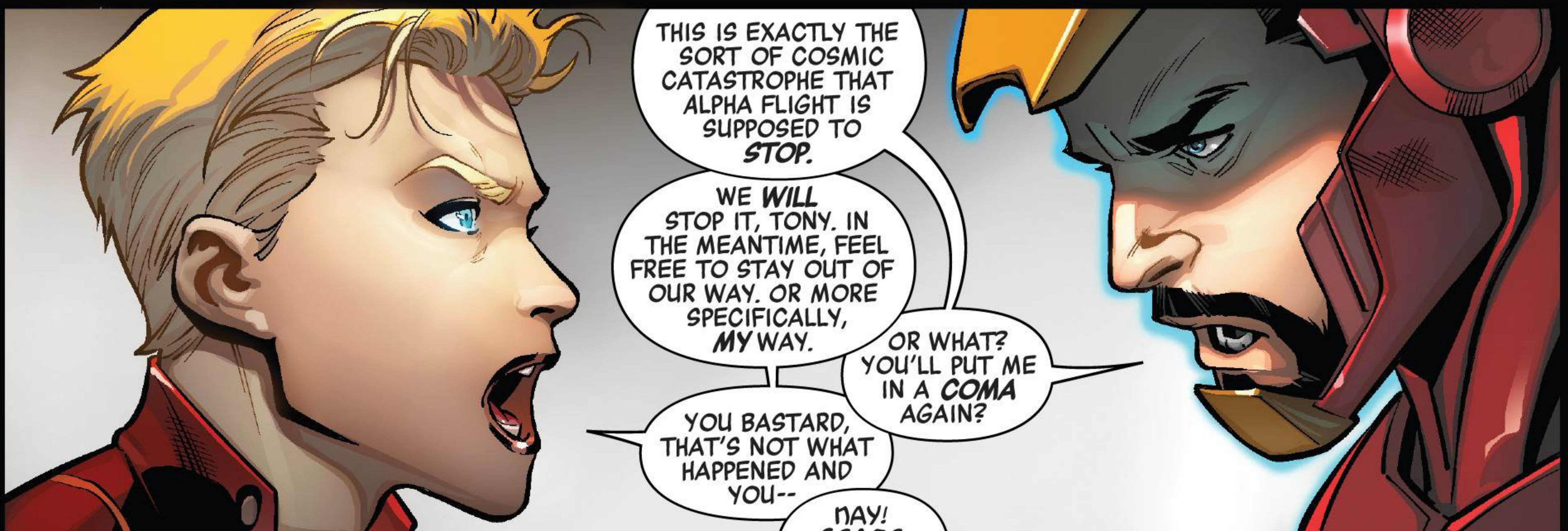
GOOD. I
ACCEPT YOUR
SURRENDER.

YOU'RE
COMING WITH
US, CAPTAIN
AMERICA.

I'M HAPPY
TO SEE THAT
IMPENDING ANNIHILATION
HASN'T AFFECTED YOUR
SENSE OF HUMOR,
CAPTAIN ROGERS. YOU'LL
NEED THAT IN THE
HOURS AHEAD.

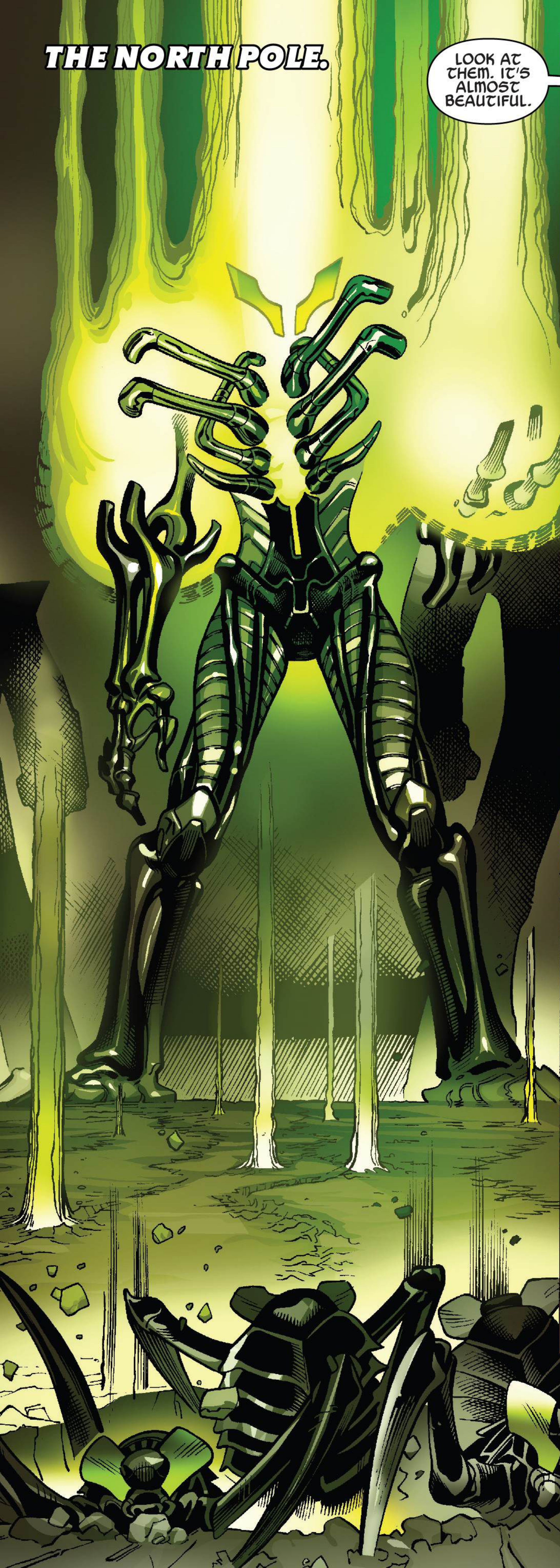
PERSONALLY,
I'VE ALWAYS FOUND
GLOBAL EXTINCTION
IS BEST SERVED...
WITH A SMILE.







THE NORTH POLE.



LOOK AT THEM. IT'S ALMOST BEAUTIFUL.



IN A... *DISGUSTING* SORT OF WAY, OF COURSE.

WHATEVER PART YOU'RE PLAYING HERE, LOKI, THERE'S STILL TIME TO CHANGE COURSE.

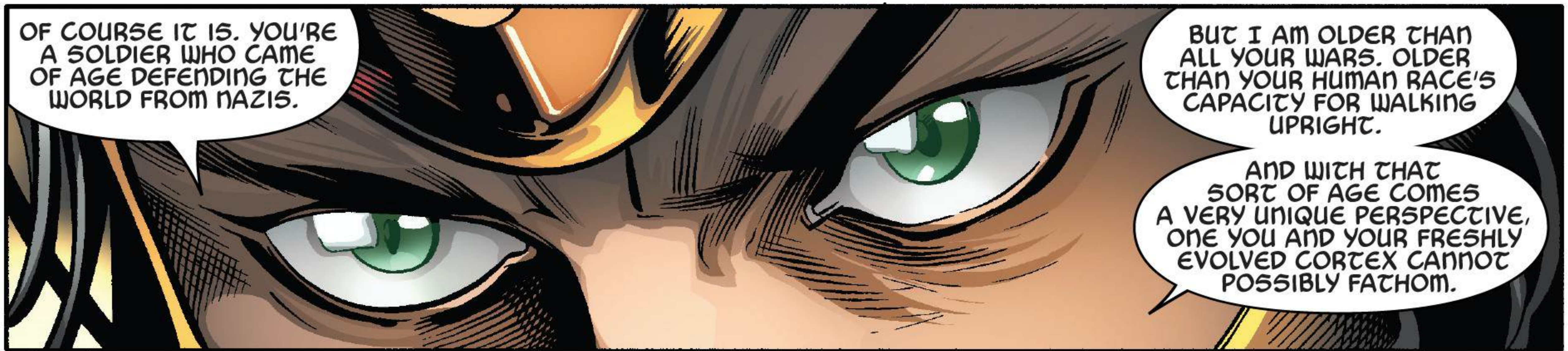
TO HELP US STOP THIS.



I KNOW THERE'S A DECENT GOD HIDING UNDER THOSE HORNS. I'VE SEEN HIM SHOW HIS FACE OVER THE YEARS. EVEN SEEN HIM DO THE RIGHT THING FROM TIME TO TIME.

I KNOW YOUR BROTHER BELIEVES THAT, TOO.

YOUR WORLD IS A VERY SIMPLE PLACE, ISN'T IT, ROGERS?



OF COURSE IT IS. YOU'RE A SOLDIER WHO CAME OF AGE DEFENDING THE WORLD FROM NAZIS.

BUT I AM OLDER THAN ALL YOUR WARS. OLDER THAN YOUR HUMAN RACE'S CAPACITY FOR WALKING UPRIGHT.

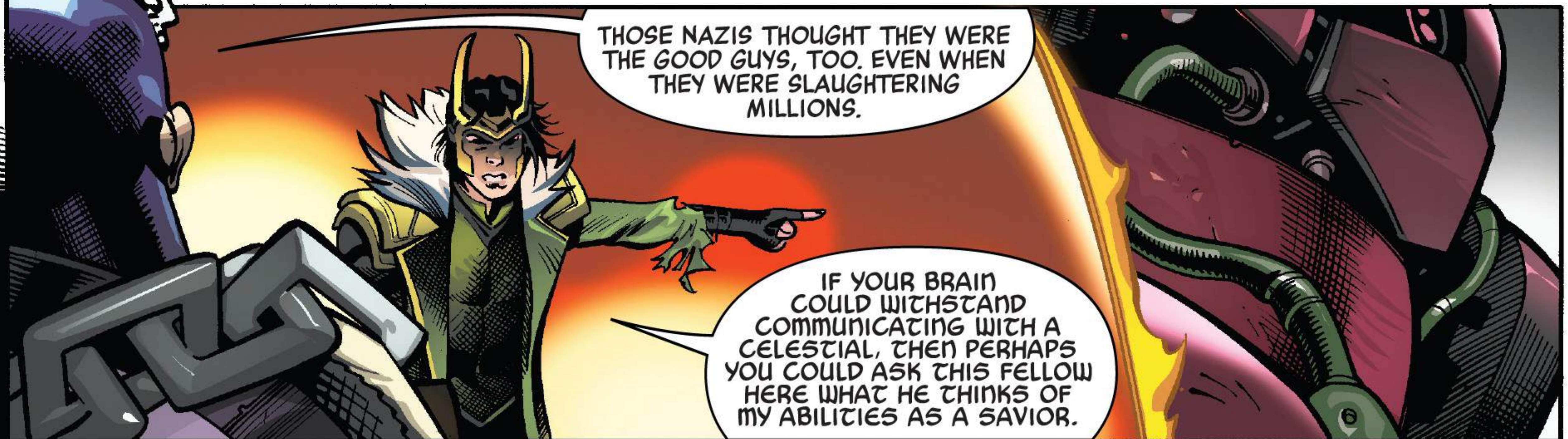
AND WITH THAT SORT OF AGE COMES A VERY UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE, ONE YOU AND YOUR FRESHLY EVOLVED CORTEX CANNOT POSSIBLY FATHOM.



I AM SOMETHING FAR BEYOND YOUR PETTY CONCEPTS OF GOOD AND EVIL, MY CAPTAIN.

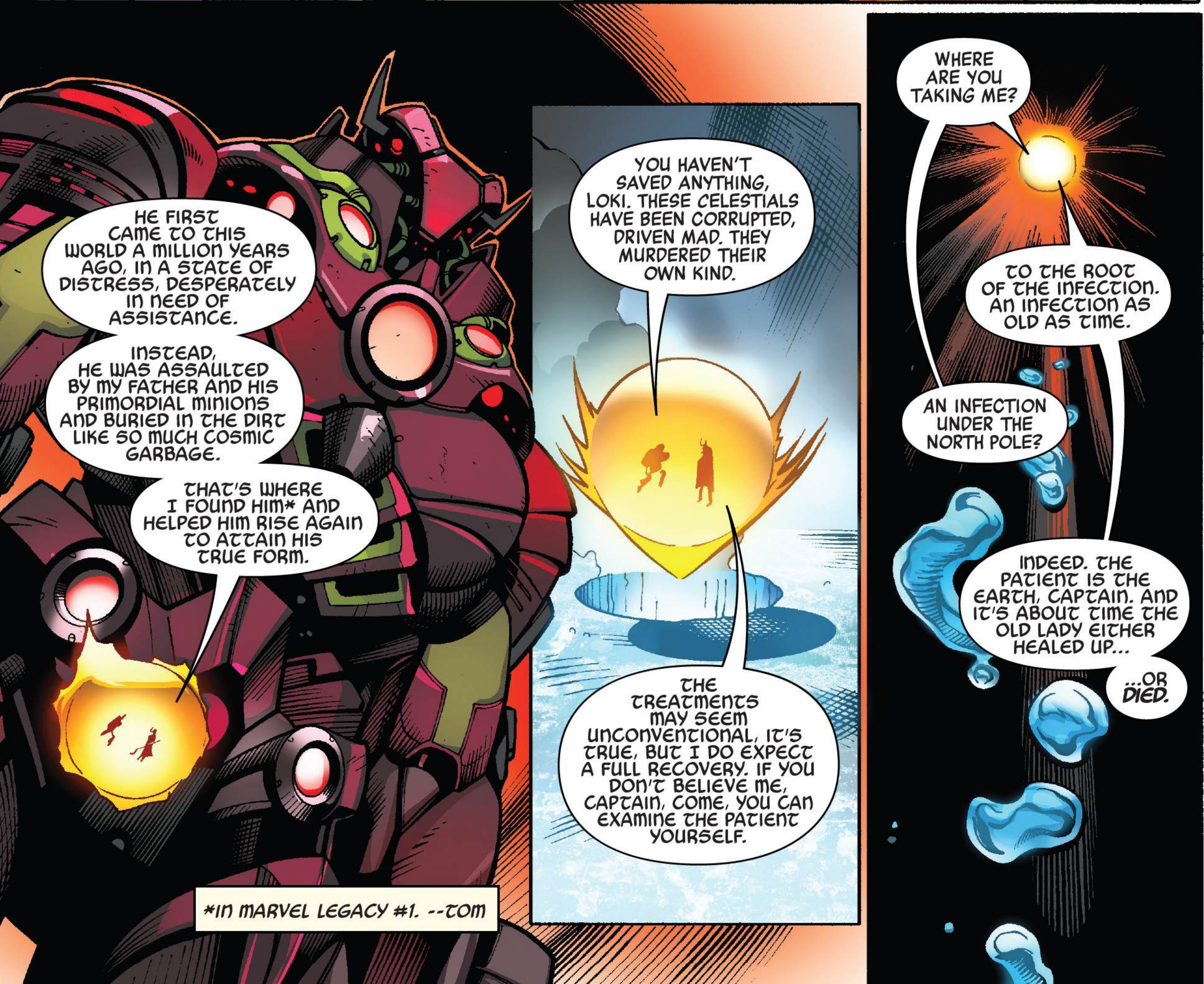
BUT IF YOU INSIST ON RESORTING TO TRITE LABELS, THEN BELIEVE IT OR NOT...

...I AM THE GOOD GUY HERE.



THOSE NAZIS THOUGHT THEY WERE THE GOOD GUYS, TOO. EVEN WHEN THEY WERE SLAUGHTERING MILLIONS.

IF YOUR BRAIN COULD WITHSTAND COMMUNICATING WITH A CELESTIAL, THEN PERHAPS YOU COULD ASK THIS FELLOW HERE WHAT HE THINKS OF MY ABILITIES AS A SAVIOR.



HE FIRST CAME TO THIS WORLD A MILLION YEARS AGO, IN A STATE OF DISTRESS, DESPERATELY IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE.

INSTEAD, HE WAS ASSAULTED BY MY FATHER AND HIS PRIMORDIAL MINIONS AND BURIED IN THE DIRT LIKE SO MUCH COSMIC GARBAGE.

THAT'S WHERE I FOUND HIM* AND HELPED HIM RISE AGAIN TO ATTAIN HIS TRUE FORM.

YOU HAVEN'T SAVED ANYTHING, LOKI. THESE CELESTIALS HAVE BEEN CORRUPTED, DRIVEN MAD. THEY MURDERED THEIR OWN KIND.

THE TREATMENTS MAY SEEM UNCONVENTIONAL, IT'S TRUE, BUT I DO EXPECT A FULL RECOVERY. IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, CAPTAIN, COME, YOU CAN EXAMINE THE PATIENT YOURSELF.

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?

TO THE ROOT OF THE INFECTION. AN INFECTION AS OLD AS TIME.

AN INFECTION UNDER THE NORTH POLE?

INDEED. THE PATIENT IS THE EARTH, CAPTAIN. AND IT'S ABOUT TIME THE OLD LADY EITHER HEALED UP...

...OR DIED.



OKAY, SO...
JUST TO RECAP...

...JUST TO MAKE
SURE I'M NOT
COMPLETELY CRAZY...

...THE EARTH IS
INFESTED WITH
GIANT BUGS.

AND COVERED
WITH DEAD
CELESTIALS.

AND SOMEWHERE OUT
THERE, LOKI AND HIS
UNSTOPPABLE NEW PALS,
THE FINAL HOST, ARE UP
TO SOMETHING THAT WILL
LIKELY MURDER US ALL.

DID I MISS
ANYTHING?

RRGGGHH!



OH, RIGHT. THERE'S
A RAGING HULK HERE.
THAT'S SURE TO HELP
US GET A HANDLE
ON THINGS.

JEN, IS
THAT YOU? GOD,
WHAT'S HAPPENED
TO YOU? I THOUGHT
YOU'D PULLED
YOURSELF BACK
TOGETHER
AFTER--

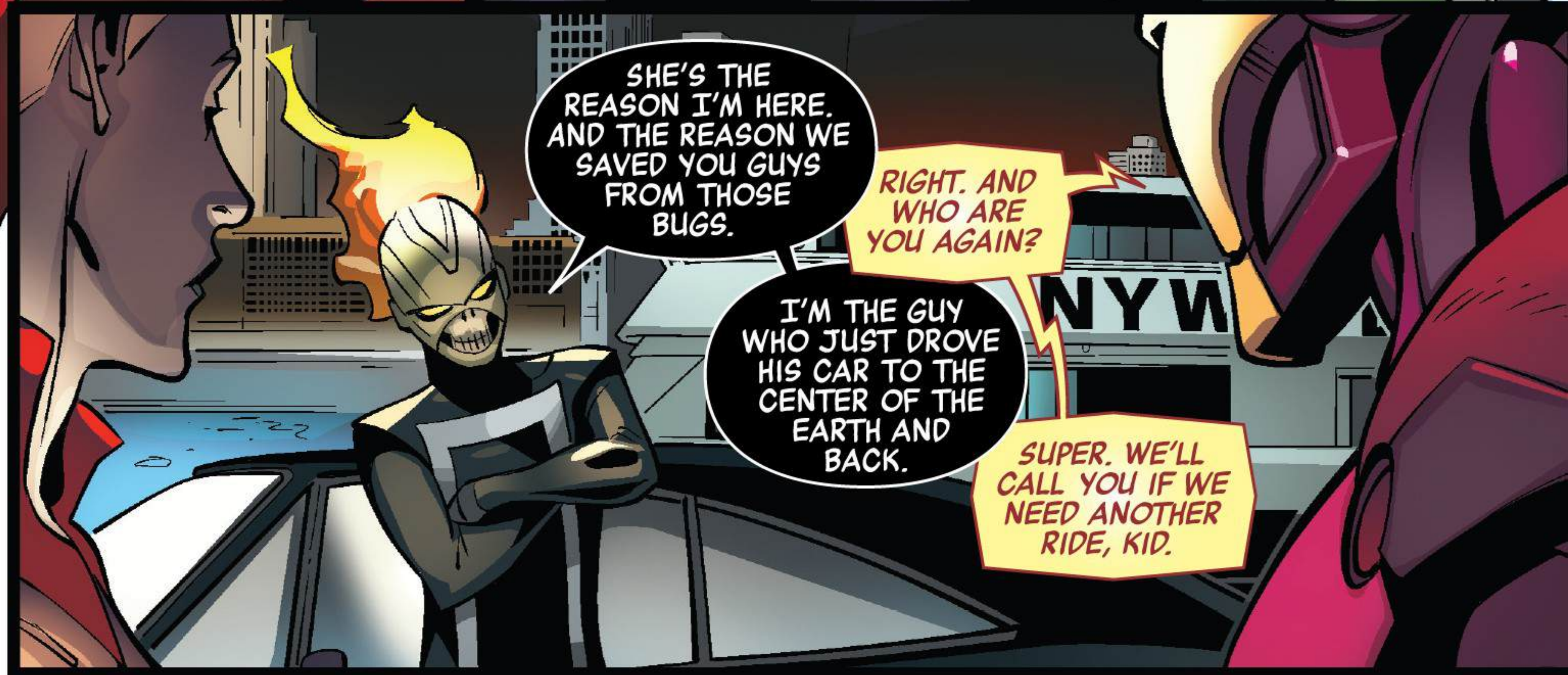
RRRGH.
LESS TALK.
MORE
PUNCH.

HUZZAH
TO THAT. WE ARE
WASTING TIME. WE MUST
FIND WHERE THEY'VE
TAKEN CAPTAIN
AMERICA.

WE HAVE
EVERY EYE IN ORBIT
SEARCHING FOR CAPTAIN
ROGERS. BUT UNTIL WE
LOCATE THE FINAL HOST,
THESE INSECT CREATURES
MAY BE THE MOST
PRESSING THREAT.

NONE OF US
ARE EXPERTS ON
THESE CELESTIALS.
WE NEED TO FIND
SOMEONE
WHO IS.

THAT HULK
KNOWS
SOMETHING.

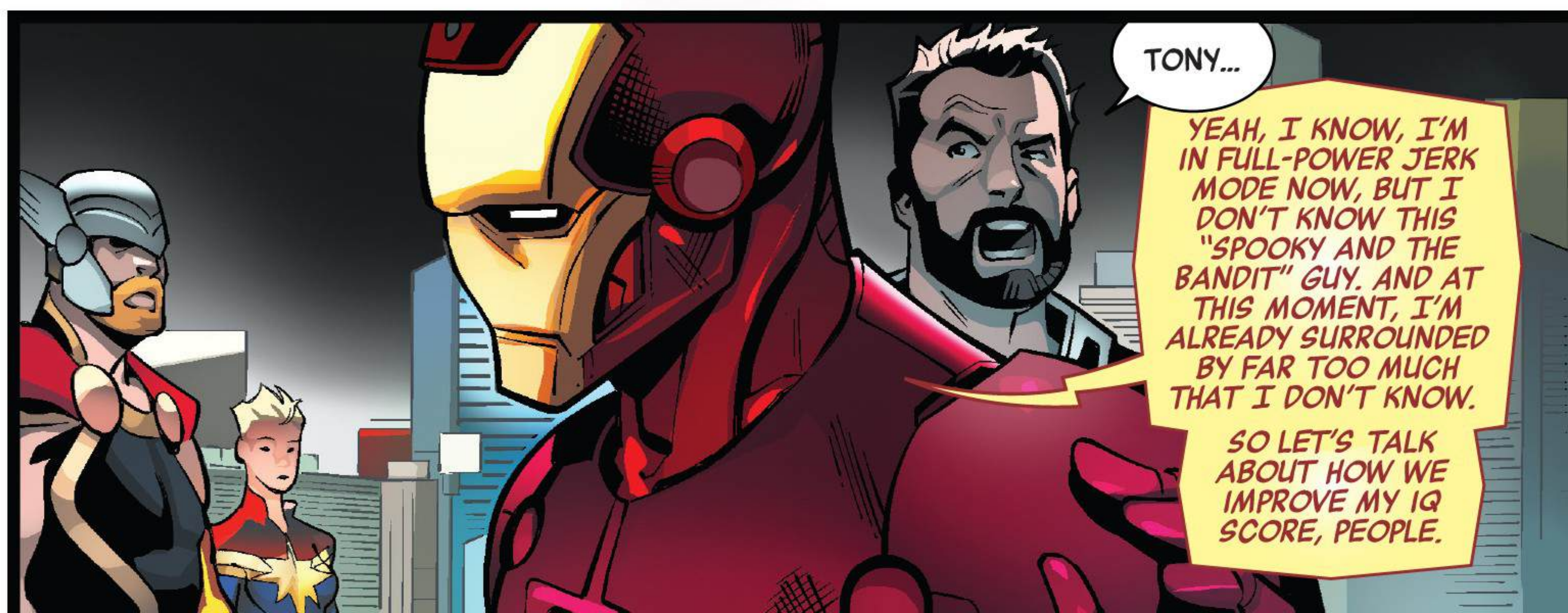


SHE'S THE
REASON I'M HERE.
AND THE REASON WE
SAVED YOU GUYS
FROM THOSE
BUGS.

RIGHT. AND
WHO ARE
YOU AGAIN?

I'M THE GUY
WHO JUST DROVE
HIS CAR TO THE
CENTER OF THE
EARTH AND
BACK.

SUPER. WE'LL
CALL YOU IF WE
NEED ANOTHER
RIDE, KID.



TONY...

YEAH, I KNOW, I'M
IN FULL-POWER JERK
MODE NOW, BUT I
DON'T KNOW THIS
"SPOOKY AND THE
BANDIT" GUY. AND AT
THIS MOMENT, I'M
ALREADY SURROUNDED
BY FAR TOO MUCH
THAT I DON'T KNOW.

SO LET'S TALK
ABOUT HOW WE
IMPROVE MY IQ
SCORE, PEOPLE.

I'VE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH CAPTAIN BRITAIN AND THE PEOPLE'S DEFENSE FORCE IN CHINA. THERE ARE HEROES ALL OVER THE WORLD ALREADY DEALING WITH THE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY THE FALLEN CELESTIALS.

WE NEED TO BE FOCUSED ON PREVENTING WHATEVER IS COMING NEXT.

RIGHT. THAT'S WHY T'CHALLA AND I ARE HEADED TO ALPHA FLIGHT STATION, TO FIND OUT WHAT THE HELL THESE BUG THINGS ARE.

SO WE'RE DOING THE "SPLIT UP INTO SMALLER TEAMS" THING? GOOD. THAT'S A SOLID, TIME-HONORED STRATEGY.

YOU'RE RIGHT, DOC. WE NEED SOME EXPERTS IN THE CELESTIAL FIELD IF WE'RE GONNA RESCUE CAP. THAT'S WHY YOU AND I HAVE A DATE WITH THE ETERNALS.

TERRIFIC.

SHOULD I KNOW WHO THAT IS?

KRAKOW

THOR, WHY DON'T YOU...

THOR JUST STOLE OUR HULK.

IS THAT GOOD OR BAD?

WELL...

"...IT'S DEFINITELY
BAD FOR SOMEONE."

OLD ASGARD.

LET
ME DO THE
TALKING, LADY
WALTERS.

HRRGH.

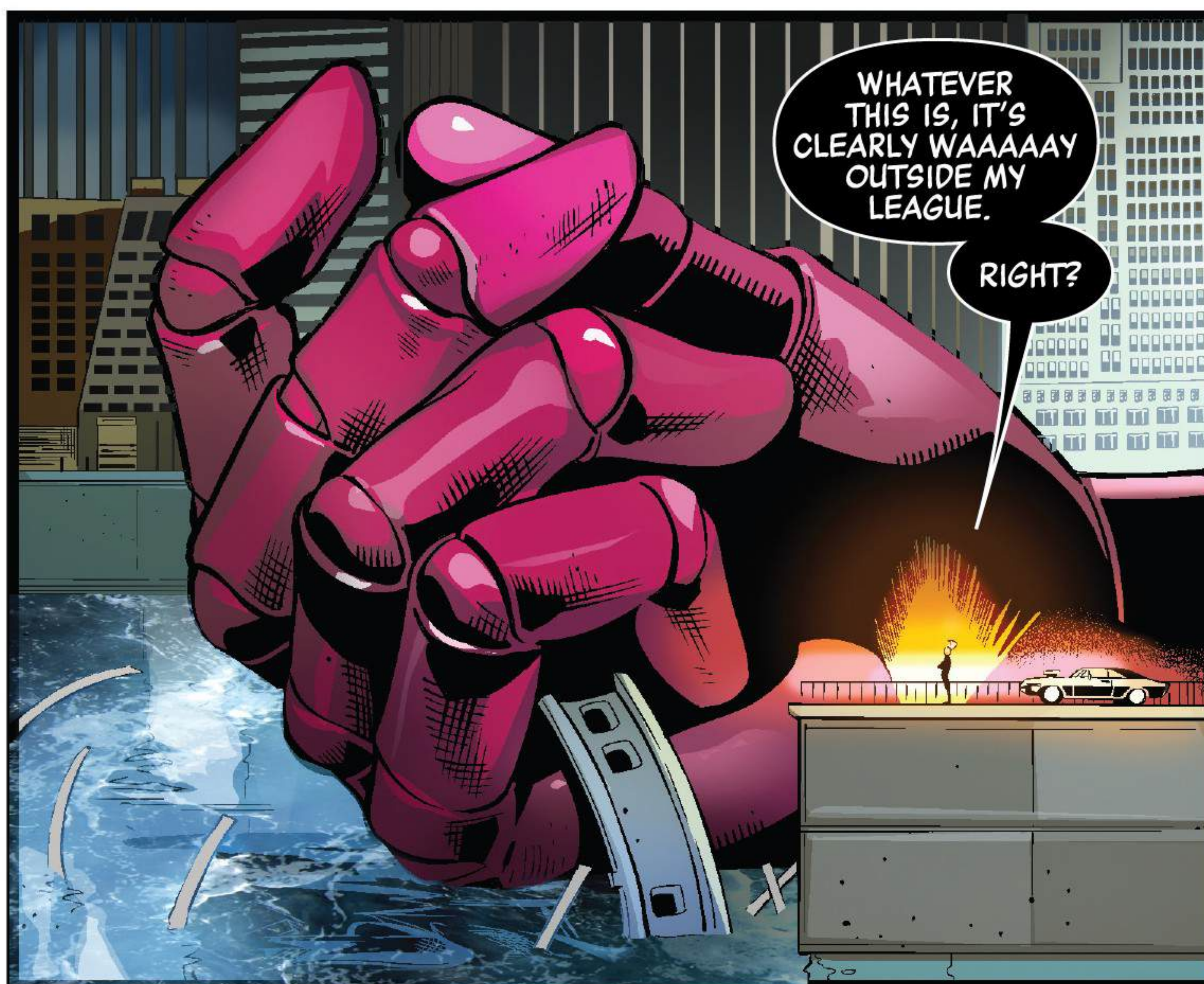
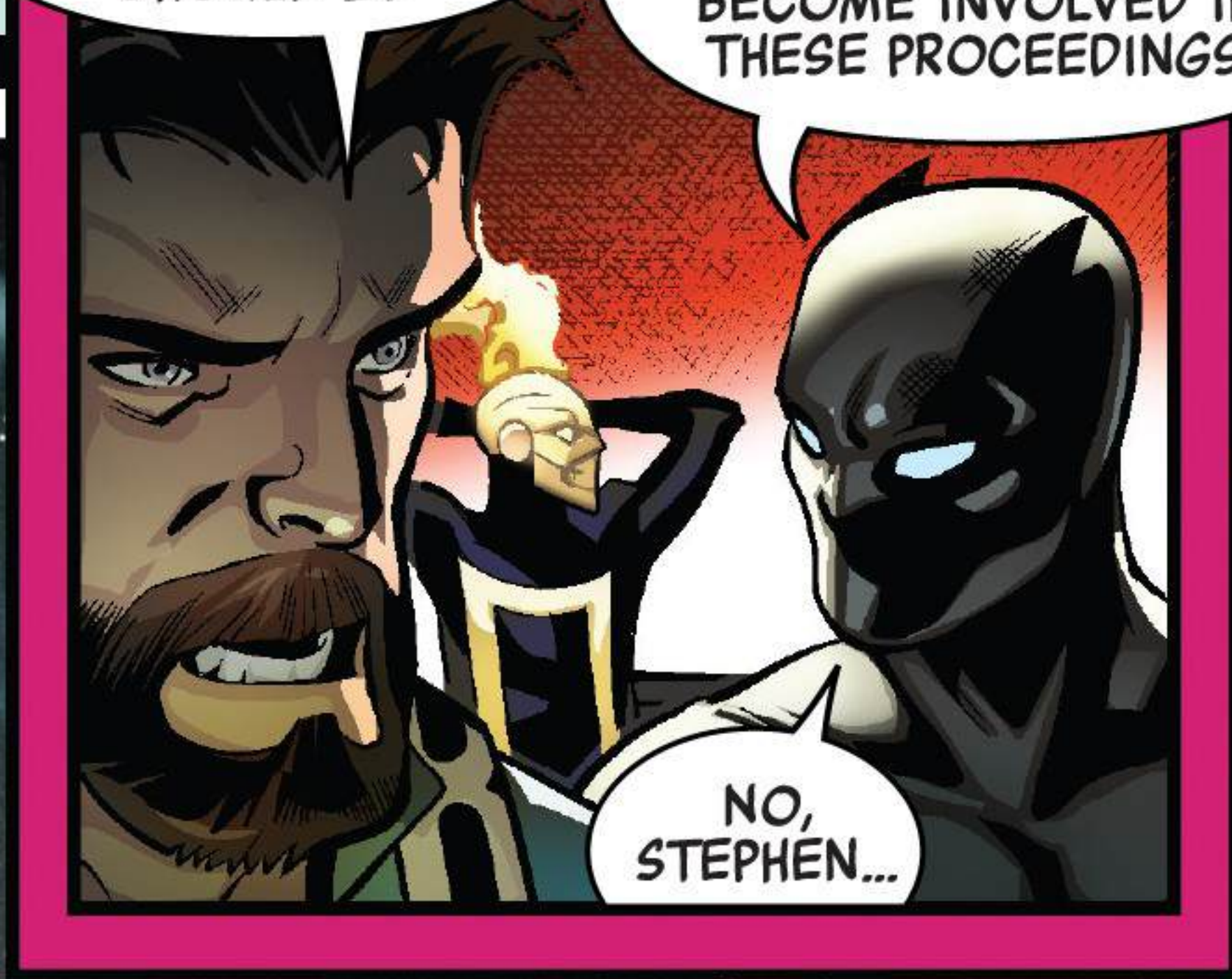
AND DON'T
START SMASHING
UNLESS I DO.

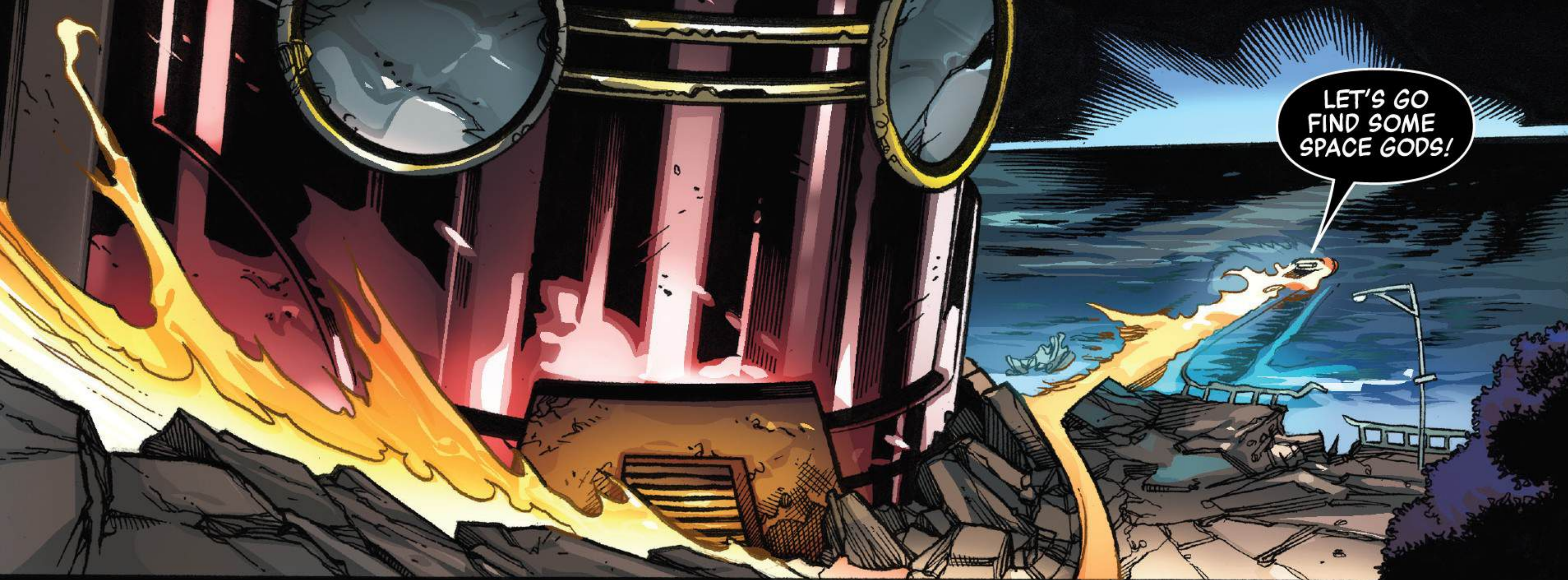
ODIN! WHERE
ARE YOU, YOU
LYING BASTARD?
DON'T YOU DARE
HIDE FROM
ME!

I'M TOO
OLD AND BROKEN
TO HIDE. WHAT IS
IT YOU SEEK, GOD
OF THUNDER?

THE
TRUTH!

AND FOR
ONCE, YOU'RE GOING
TO GIVE IT TO ME,
FATHER. WHETHER YOU
DAMN WELL LIKE
IT OR NOT.





BEHOLD THE
PROGENITOR.

THE
FATHER OF THE
AVENGERS.

THE
FATHER OF
YOU ALL.





AARON KUDER & JASON KEITH
1 VARIANT COVER

4 A BATTLE THAT WAS LOST A MILLION YEARS AGO





"AGAMOTTO
LITERALLY INVENTED
THE IDEA OF THE
SURLY WIZARD WHO
SPEAKS IN
POMPOUS RIDDLES.

"I FOUND HIM
SO FREQUENTLY
INFURIATING, I
STILL SWEAR HE
HAD SOME TROLL
IN HIS LINEAGE.

"WHAT THE
SCARBRAND
LACKED IN WITS,
WHICH WAS DAMN
NEAR EVERYTHING,
HE MADE UP
FOR WITH PURE
COSMIC MIGHT.

"THE RIDER
WAS A
FRIGHTENED
BOY WITH A
DEVIL WHERE
THERE'D
ONCE BEEN
A SOUL.

"THE PANTHER WAS THE
FIRST TO DISCOVER SOME
MANNER OF VIBRATING
ROCK OR SOME SUCH, AND
THE FIRST TO BEGIN TO
UNLOCK ITS MANY SECRETS.
NEVER HAVE I BEEN MORE
IMPRESSED BY A MORTAL.

"THE PHOENIX. SHE WAS...
A GOOD FRIEND...FOR MANY
YEARS. EVEN LONG AFTER
THE OTHERS HAD TURNED TO
DUST. AND THAT'S...ALL I
CARE TO SAY ABOUT HER.

"I NEVER MUCH CARED FOR THE
IRON FIST. ANY OF THEM, FOR
THAT MATTER. NEVER TRUST
ANYONE FROM K'un-Lun. I SHOULD
HAVE BURNED THAT WRETCHED
DRAGON'S NEST TO THE GROUND
WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE.

"AND THEN
THERE WAS ME.
THE DASHING
YOUNG ALL-FATHER
OF ASGARD. WITH
A POWERFUL YET...
TEMPERAMENTAL
HAMMER.

"WE WERE A RAGGED ASSORTMENT,
TO BE SURE. BUT THERE AT THE
DAWN OF MAN, WE WERE ALL THAT
MIDGARD HAD. AND WE SAVED IT
MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT.

"PERHAPS
ONE TIME
TOO MANY."

OLD ASGARD.

I STILL
CANNOT BELIEVE
YOU NEVER TOLD ME
OF THESE EXPLOITS,
FATHER.

IT'S BEEN A
LONG LIFE, BOY. THE
STARS WOULD GO BLACK
BEFORE I COULD TELL
YOU ALL OF IT.

EVEN THE
PARTS THAT
ARE FIT FOR TELLING
IN THE COMPANY
OF A...**LADY**.

HHRRRGH.

AND THERE ARE
SOME SECRETS THAT
THE ALL-FATHER WILL
TAKE WITH HIM TO
VALHALLA.

NOT THE
ONE I SEEK,
YOU WON'T.

ONE MILLION
YEARS AGO, YOU
AND YOUR PRIMORDIAL
ALLIES DEFEATED A **DARK
CELESTIAL**. I NEED
TO KNOW HOW.

AYE, WE FELLED ONE WEAKENED,
SICKLY CELESTIAL, STILL IN THE
THROES OF SUCCUMBING TO ITS
COSMIC CORRUPTION.

LOKI'S **FINAL HOST**
ARE A DIFFERENT BREED.
NOT EVEN THE **ODINSWORD**
OR YOUR ENCHANTED
JARINBJORN COULD CRACK
THEIR DARK ARMOR.

NOTHING
WILL STOP THEM,
MY SON.

I DON'T
BELIEVE YOU,
ALL-FATHER.



WITH ALL THE SECRETS THAT'VE BEEN BURIED IN ASGARD SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME, THERE MUST BE *SOMETHING* HERE THAT WE CAN USE.

OH, OF COURSE THERE IS. BUT IT WILL NOT DEFEAT YOUR ENEMIES. IT WILL ONLY MAKE YOUR ULTIMATE DEATH...FAR MORE SPECTACULAR.

SHOW ME.



I'VE RACED EVERY HALL IN ASGARD SINCE I WAS FIRST ABLE TO WALK, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS ONE BEFORE.

NO ONE HAS. THAT'S BY DESIGN. MY DESIGN.



WHAT'S BEHIND THIS DOOR COULD END THE *WORLD*. OR PERHAPS *SAVE* IT.

OPEN IT IF YOU DARE, PRINCE OF ASGARD.



TELL ME WHAT LIES BEHIND IT BEFORE I...

HRRGH.



RRRRGH!



WHAT YOU SEEK LIES IN THE CENTER OF THAT ROOM.

THERE APPEARS TO BE A LARGE AMOUNT OF ICE IN THE WAY.

THAT IS YOUR PROBLEM, THOR. NOT MINE.

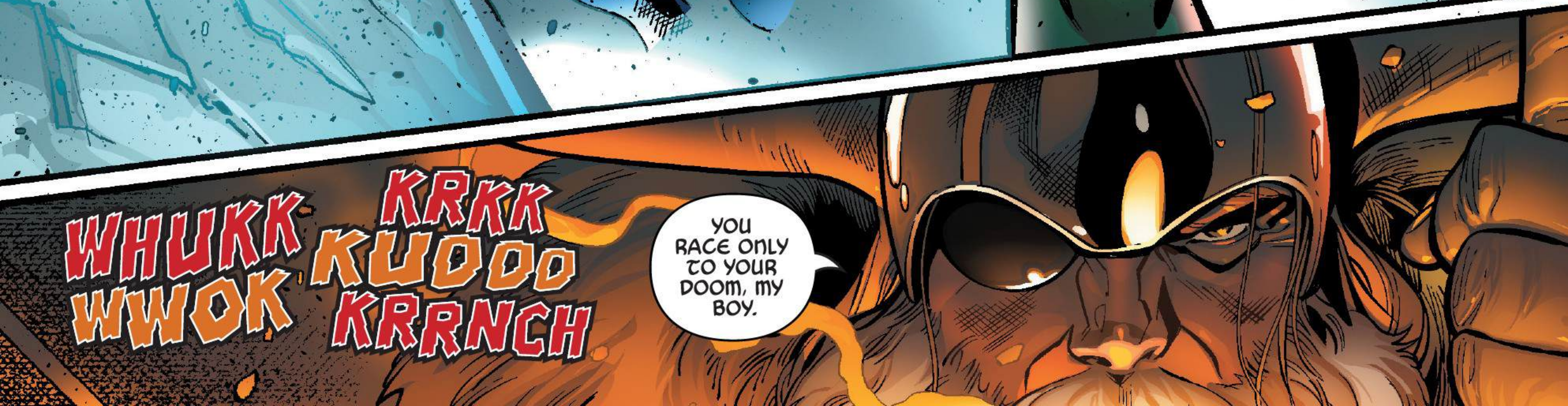


SO BE IT. RACE YOU, LADY WALTERS!

RRRGGGH!!!

WHAKK
WHAKK
WHAKK

KRUK
KRUK
KRUK



WHUKK
WWOK
KRKK
KUDDO
KRRNCH

YOU RACE ONLY TO YOUR DOOM, MY BOY.

"AND WE ALL
RACE RIGHT ALONG
WITH YOU."

**THE MOUNTAINS OF
GREECE. OLYMPIA.
HOME OF THE ETERNALS.**

I'M SORRY,
TONY, BUT...I
CAN FIND NO
SIGNS OF
LIFE HERE.

IT WOULD
APPEAR...THAT
THE ETERNALS
ARE DEAD.

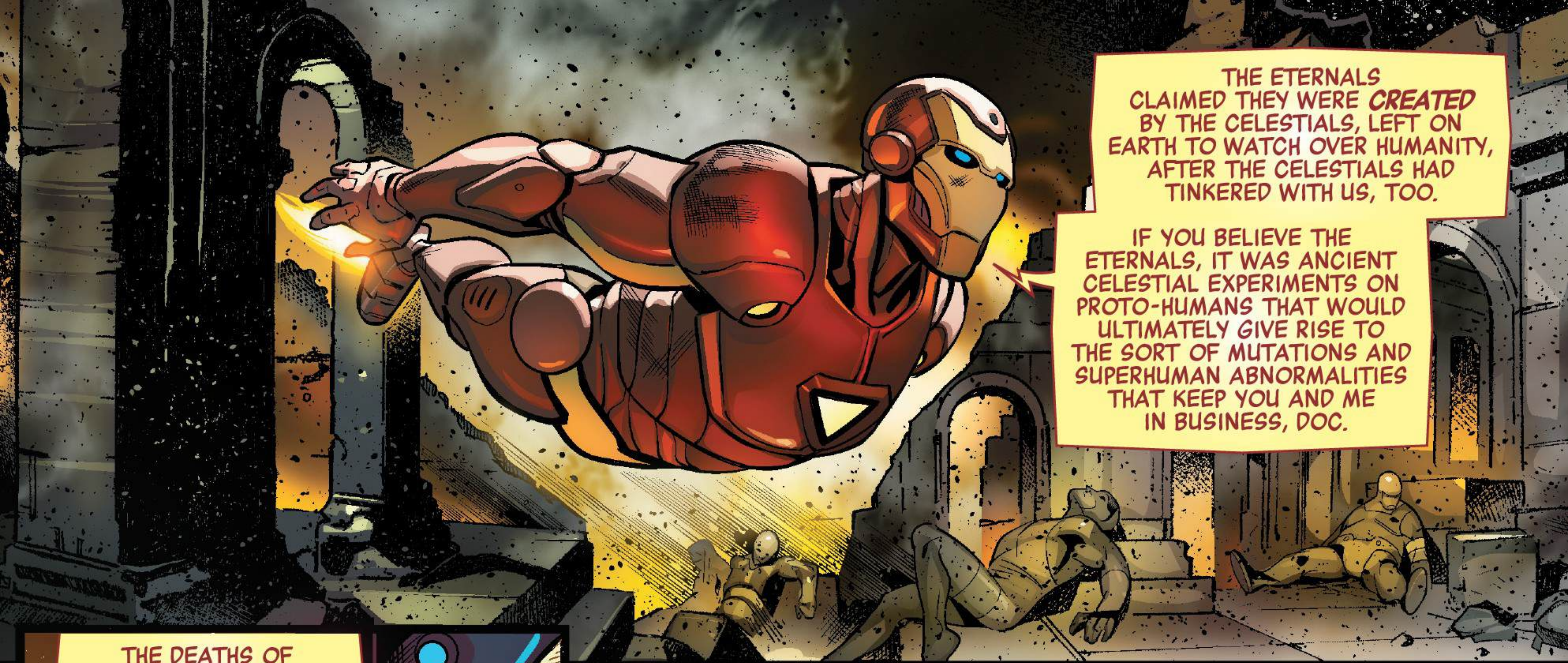
HOLY
HELL.

AND
JUDGING
BY THE WAY
THE BODIES
LIE...

...I WOULD
SAY THAT THEY
DID THIS TO **EACH
OTHER**, OR TO
THEMSELVES.
ALL WITHIN THE
LAST FEW
HOURS.

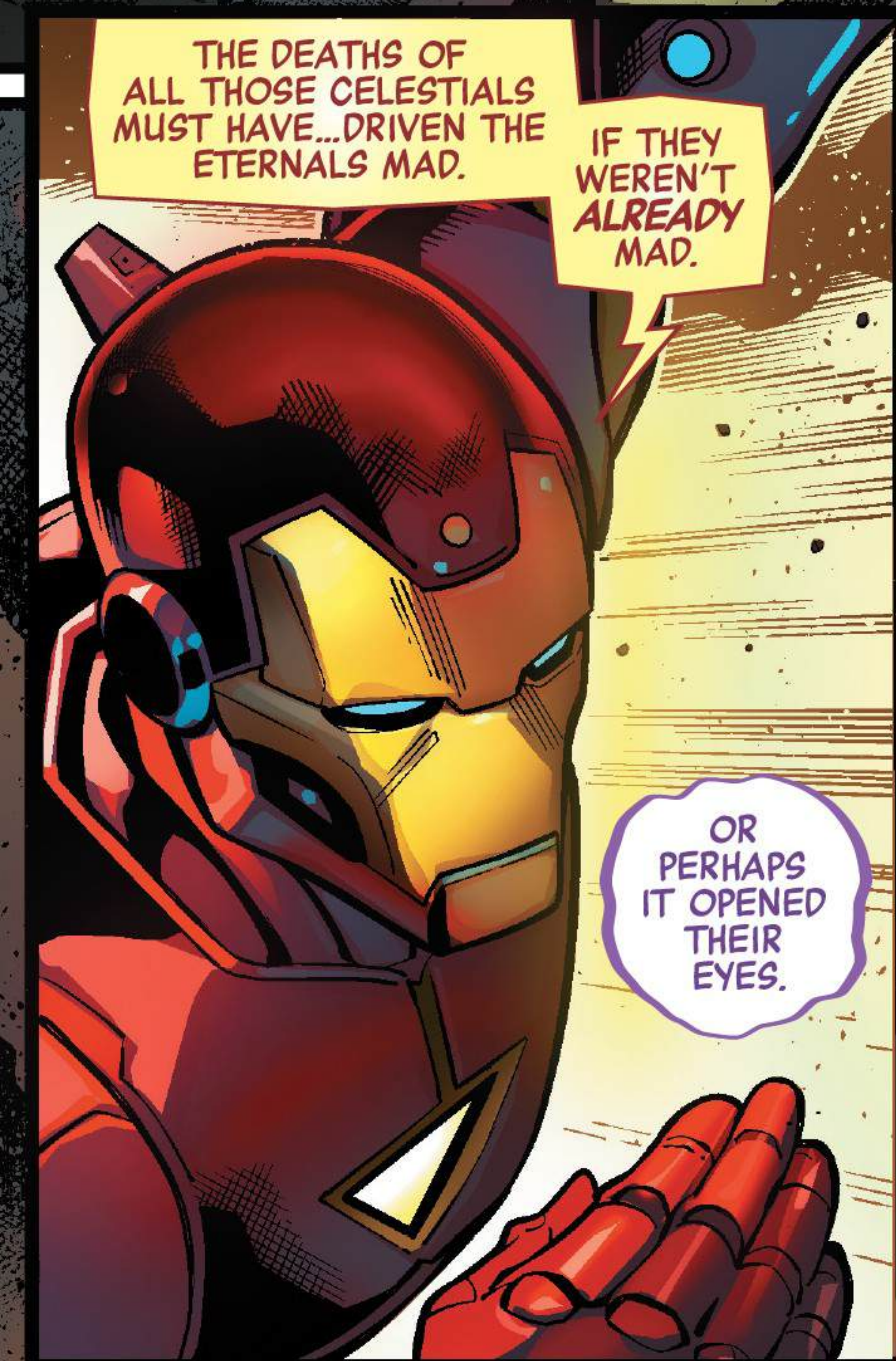
MY
CONDOLENCES, TONY.
I GATHER YOU KNEW
THESE PEOPLE.

I **KNEW**
THEM, YES. SOME
OF THEM, AT LEAST.
UNDERSTOOD THEM?
NO, NOT REALLY,
NOT EVER.



THE ETERNALS CLAIMED THEY WERE **CREATED** BY THE CELESTIALS, LEFT ON EARTH TO WATCH OVER HUMANITY, AFTER THE CELESTIALS HAD TINKERED WITH US, TOO.

IF YOU BELIEVE THE ETERNALS, IT WAS ANCIENT CELESTIAL EXPERIMENTS ON PROTO-HUMANS THAT WOULD ULTIMATELY GIVE RISE TO THE SORT OF MUTATIONS AND SUPERHUMAN ABNORMALITIES THAT KEEP YOU AND ME IN BUSINESS, DOC.



THE DEATHS OF ALL THOSE CELESTIALS MUST HAVE...DRIVEN THE ETERNALS MAD.

IF THEY WEREN'T **ALREADY** MAD.

OR PERHAPS IT OPENED THEIR EYES.



THERE IS SOMETHING HERE WE STILL DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND, TONY.

I'VE SEEN THE EGG SACS IN THE CENTER OF THE EARTH. THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF THEM. GIANT COSMIC INSECTS HAVE BEEN NESTING INSIDE THIS WORLD FOR **MILLIONS** OF YEARS.

WHERE DID THEY **COME** FROM? AND WHAT'S THEIR CONNECTION TO THESE NEW DARK CELESTIALS? WHAT PIECE OF THIS BIZARRE COSMIC PUZZLE ARE WE STILL MISSING?



WHAT DID THESE ETERNALS LEARN THAT WE HAVEN'T?

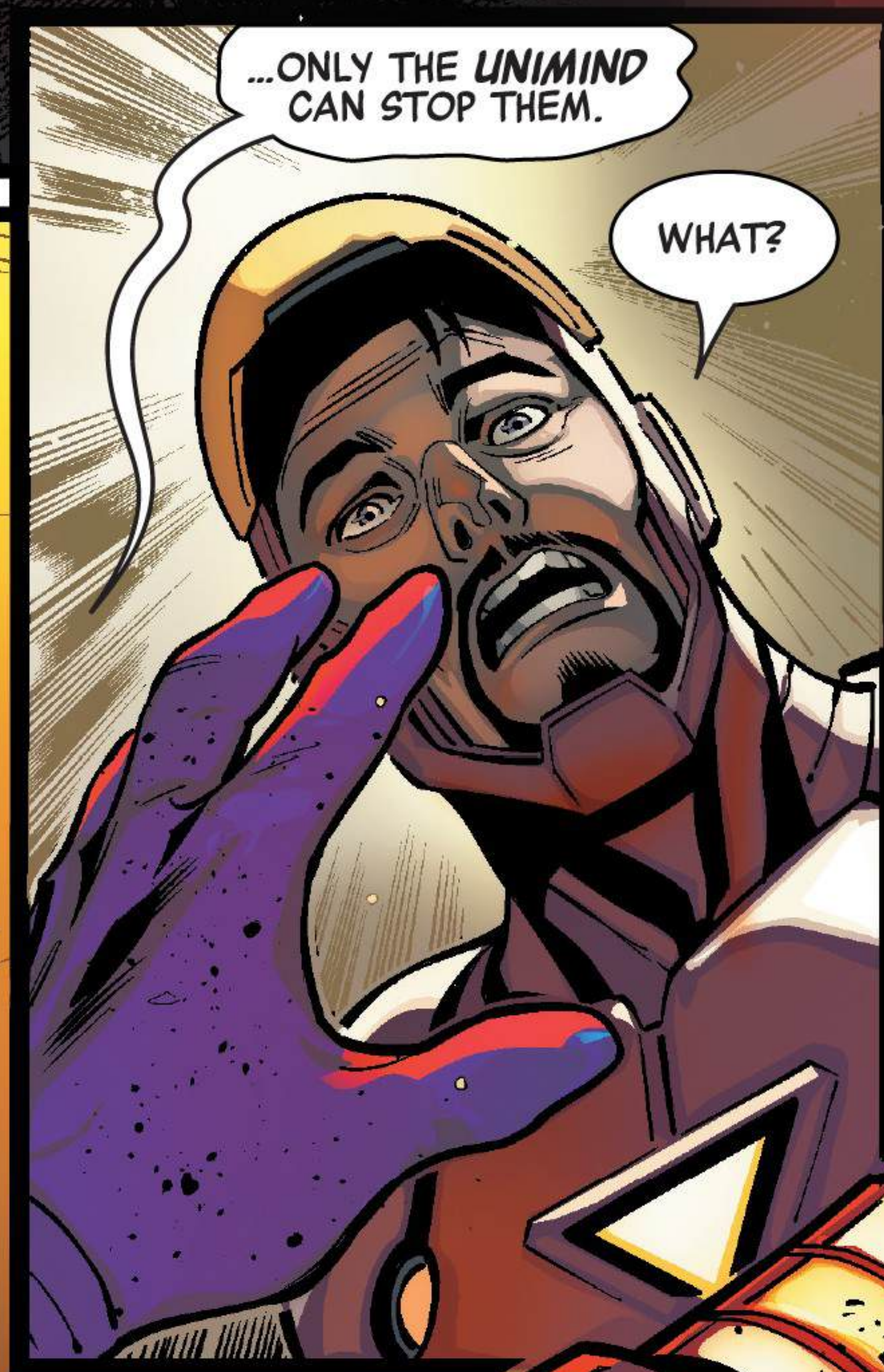
THE TRUTH.

WHAT? WHO SAID THAT?



THE TRUTH TORE US APART.

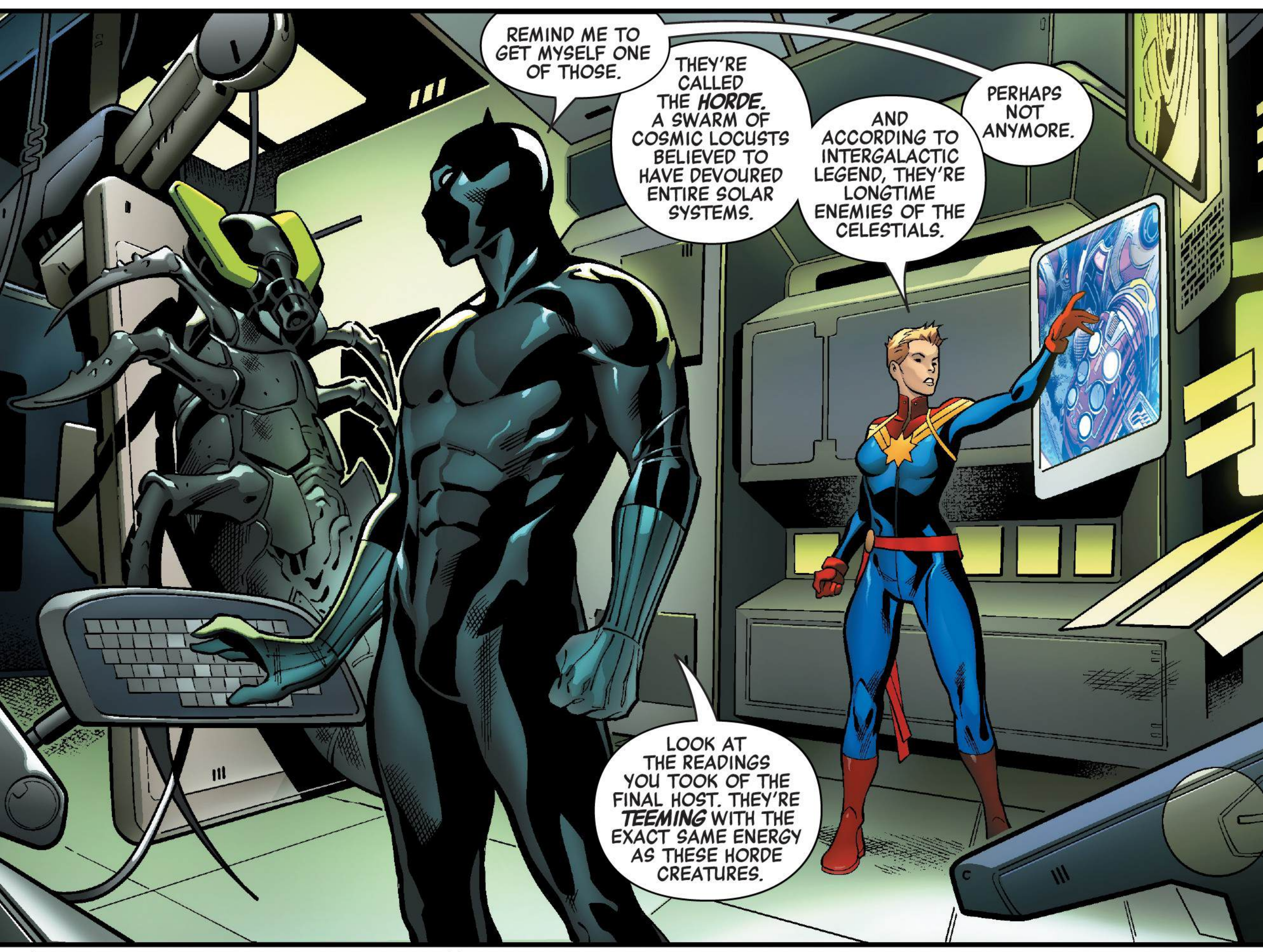
IKARIS?!





**ALPHA FLIGHT
SPACE STATION.
HEADQUARTERS FOR
EARTH'S PLANETARY
DEFENSE AGENCY.**

"OUR
INTERSTELLAR I.D.
DEPARTMENT JUST
GOT A HIT."



REMIND ME TO
GET MYSELF ONE
OF THOSE.

THEY'RE
CALLED
THE **HORDE**.
A SWARM OF
COSMIC LOCUSTS
BELIEVED TO
HAVE DEVoured
ENTIRE SOLAR
SYSTEMS.

AND
ACCORDING TO
INTERGALACTIC
LEGEND, THEY'RE
LONGTIME
ENEMIES OF THE
CELESTIALS.

PERHAPS
NOT
ANYMORE.

LOOK AT
THE READINGS
YOU TOOK OF THE
FINAL HOST. THEY'RE
TEEMING WITH THE
EXACT SAME ENERGY
AS THESE HORDE
CREATURES.



YOU'RE
RIGHT. AND THERE
ARE REPORTS FROM
ALL OVER THE GLOBE
OF GIANT INSECTS
ERUPTING FROM INSIDE
THE BODIES OF THE
FALLEN CELESTIALS.

SO IT'S NOT
JUST THE EARTH
THAT'S INFESTED.
WHICH MEANS...



CONGRATULATIONS,
T'CHALLA. YOU AND
I JUST BECAME THE
MOST IMPORTANT
EXTERMINATORS IN
HUMAN HISTORY.

DON'T THINK OF THEM AS
INSECTS, CAROL, BUT AS
GIANT COSMIC **GERMS**.
AND IF THE HORDE ARE A
DISEASE THAT EVEN THE
CELESTIALS CANNOT
CURE...

...THEN **WE**
MUST NOW BE
SMARTER THAN
SPACE GODS WITH
BRAINS THE
SIZE OF MY
PALACE.

I LIKED
MY ANALOGY
BETTER.
SOUNDED A
LITTLE LESS
HOPELESS.

THE NORTH POLE.

I MAY NOT BE A GOD, BUT THIS ISN'T EXACTLY MY FIRST RODEO, LOKI.

I'VE HEARD THE STORIES. ABOUT HOW THE CELESTIALS SUPPOSEDLY CAME TO EARTH BACK IN PREHISTORIC TIMES AND EXPERIMENTED ON OUR ANCIENT ANCESTORS. MADE US WHAT WE ARE TODAY.

BUT AS SOMEBODY WHO'S UNDERGONE HIS FAIR SHARE OF EXPERIMENTATION, I STILL SAY WE ARE WHAT WE MAKE OF OURSELVES.

YES, SPOKEN LIKE A HUMAN GREETING CARD, CAPTAIN ROGERS.

AND AS USUAL WITH YOU AMERICANS, YOUR IGNORANCE IS ONLY EXCEEDED BY THE ARROGANCE WITH WHICH YOU EMBRACE IT.

YOU'RE CORRECT THAT THE STORIES SAY THE CELESTIALS CAME TO MIDGARD A THOUSAND YEARS AGO--OR A MILLION, OR PERHAPS FIVE MILLION. THAT THEY SEEDED LIFE HERE AND TAMPERED WITH THE NATURAL EVOLUTION OF THAT LIFE.

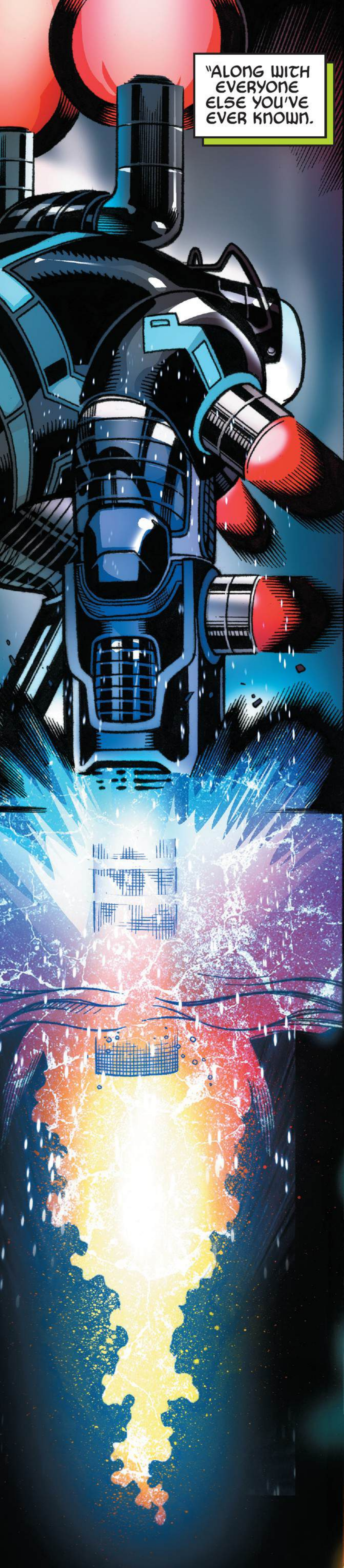
BUT THOSE STORIES, MY DEAR CAPTAIN, ARE A LITTLE SOMETHING THAT I LIKE TO CALL...

...A LIE.

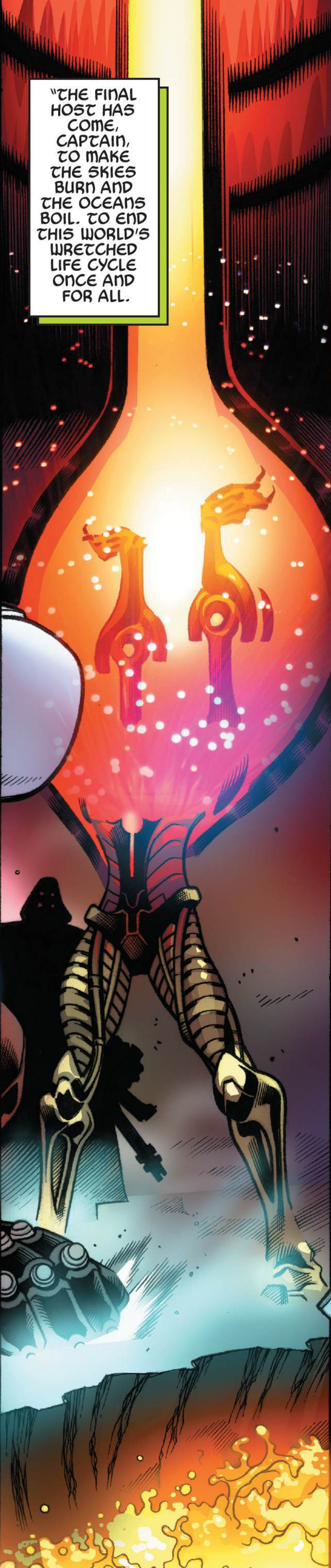
THIS ALPHA CELESTIAL HAS BEEN HERE ROTTING, NOT FOR ONE MILLION YEARS, BUT FOR FOUR BILLION.

AND IT DID NOT COME TO EARTH TO EXPERIMENT, BUT INSTEAD TO DIE A VERY SAD AND EXCEEDINGLY PAINFUL DEATH.

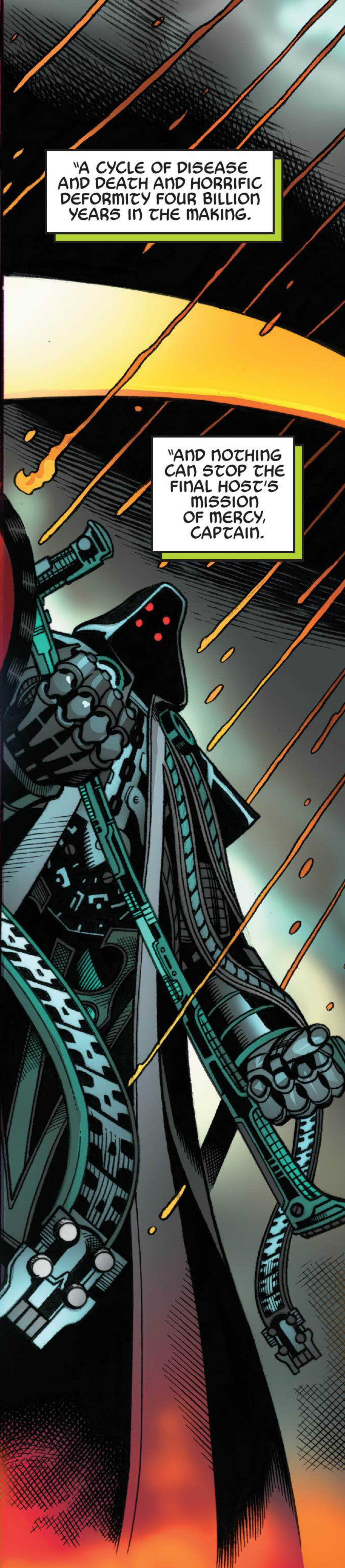
WHICH COINCIDENTALLY...IS EXACTLY THE SAME FATE THAT AWAITS YOU AND YOUR MIGHTY AVENGERS, CAPTAIN.



"ALONG WITH
EVERYONE
ELSE YOU'VE
EVER KNOWN.



"THE FINAL
HOST HAS
COME,
CAPTAIN,
TO MAKE
THE SKIES
BURN AND
THE OCEANS
BOIL. TO END
THIS WORLD'S
WRETCHED
LIFE CYCLE
ONCE AND
FOR ALL.



"A CYCLE OF DISEASE
AND DEATH AND HORRIFIC
DEFORMITY FOUR BILLION
YEARS IN THE MAKING.

"AND NOTHING
CAN STOP THE
FINAL HOST'S
MISSION
OF MERCY,
CAPTAIN.

"NOTHING IN ALL
THE HEAVENS."

OKAY, SO, THANKS TO
THE HUNK OF DARK CELESTIAL
TECH I STUFFED UNDER MY
HOOD...IT LOOKS LIKE I JUST
FOUND THE BAD GUYS.

JUST IN TIME FOR
THE OCEAN TO START
BURNING. MAN, I REALLY
HOPE THAT'S NOT
'CAUSE OF ME.

SO...
NOW
WHAT THE
HELL DO
I DO?

WHOA,
DIDN'T KNOW
THE CAR HAD A
SUBMARINE
MODE.

I GUESS
IT'S TELLING
ME I NEED TO
SNEAK UP
ON 'EM?

RIGHT,
I'M SURE
THEY'LL NEVER SEE
ME COMING.
I MEAN...

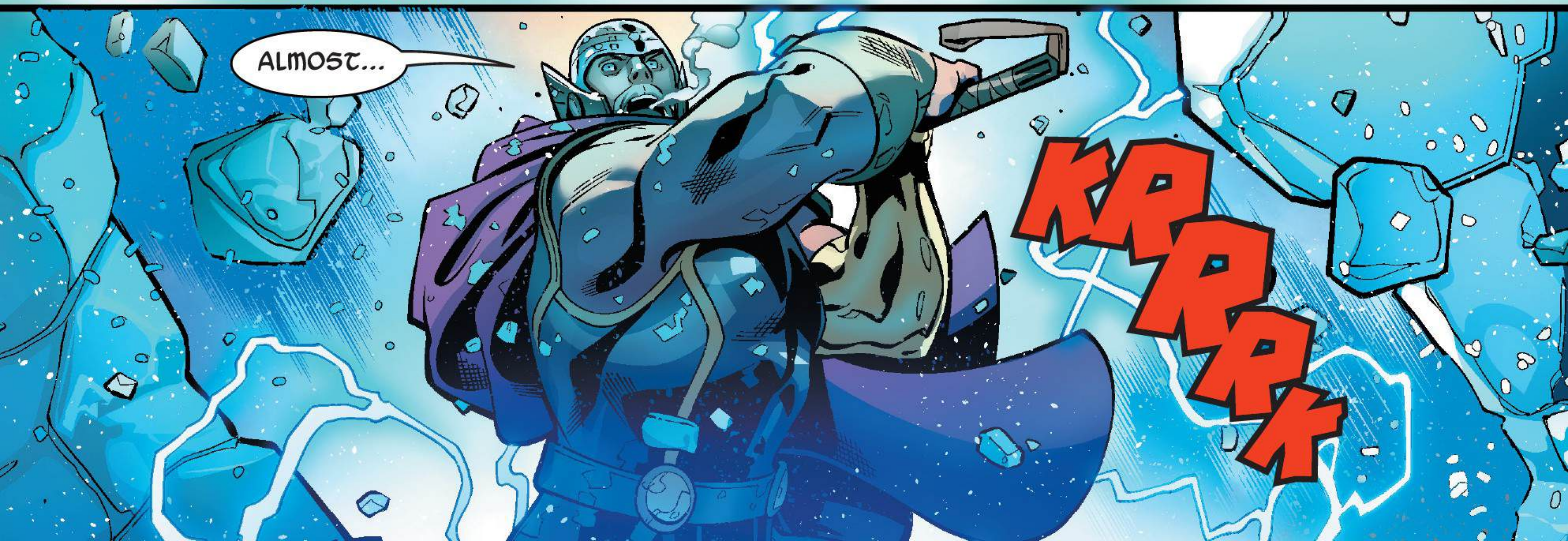
"...IT'S NOT LIKE
I'M ON FIRE OR
ANYTHING."

HHRRRGH!

THWNK

GRRAAGH!!

KEEP...
GOING.



ALMOST...

KR
R
R
K



THERE...
THERE IT
IS.

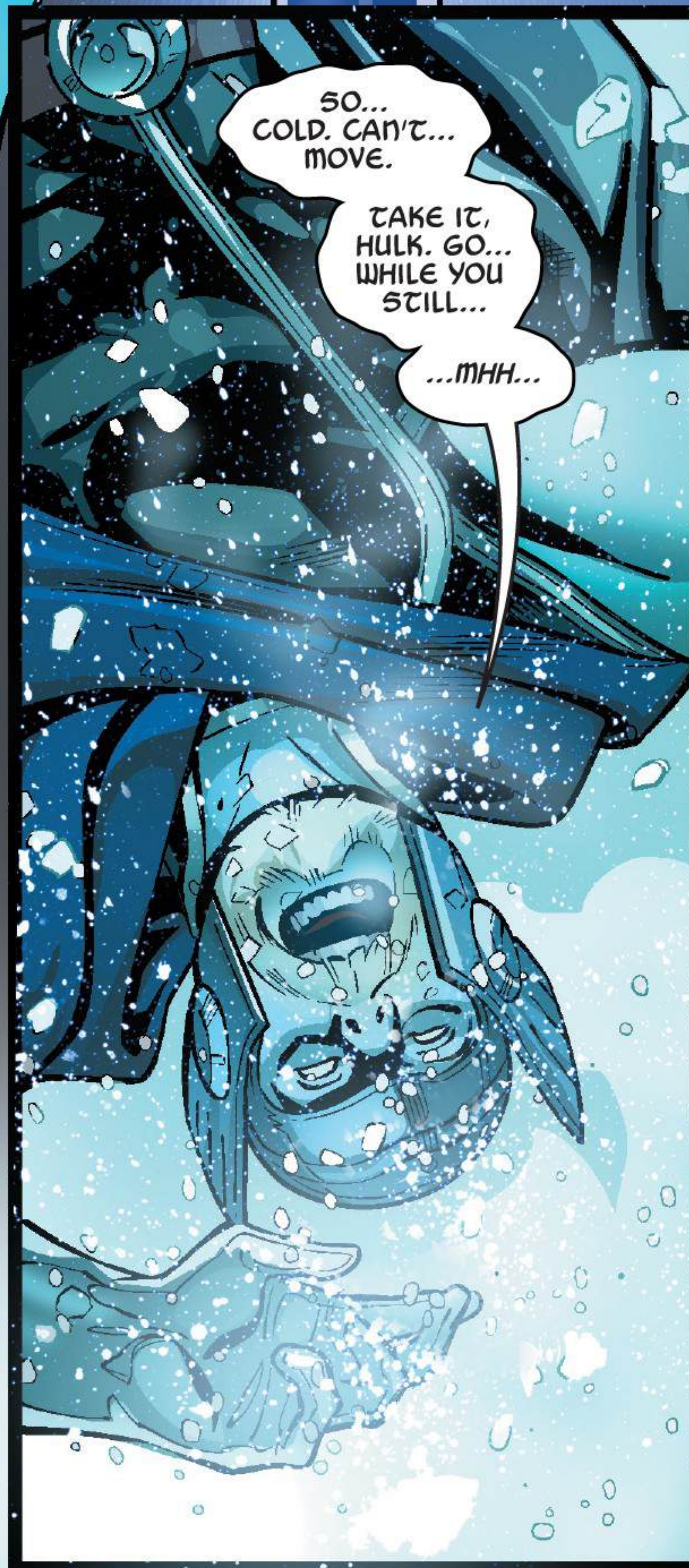
THE BLOOD
OF YMIR. FIRST OF
THE ICE COLOSSI.
FATHER OF ALL
GIANTS.



YES, THIS...
THIS WE CAN
USE TO...

UGGH.

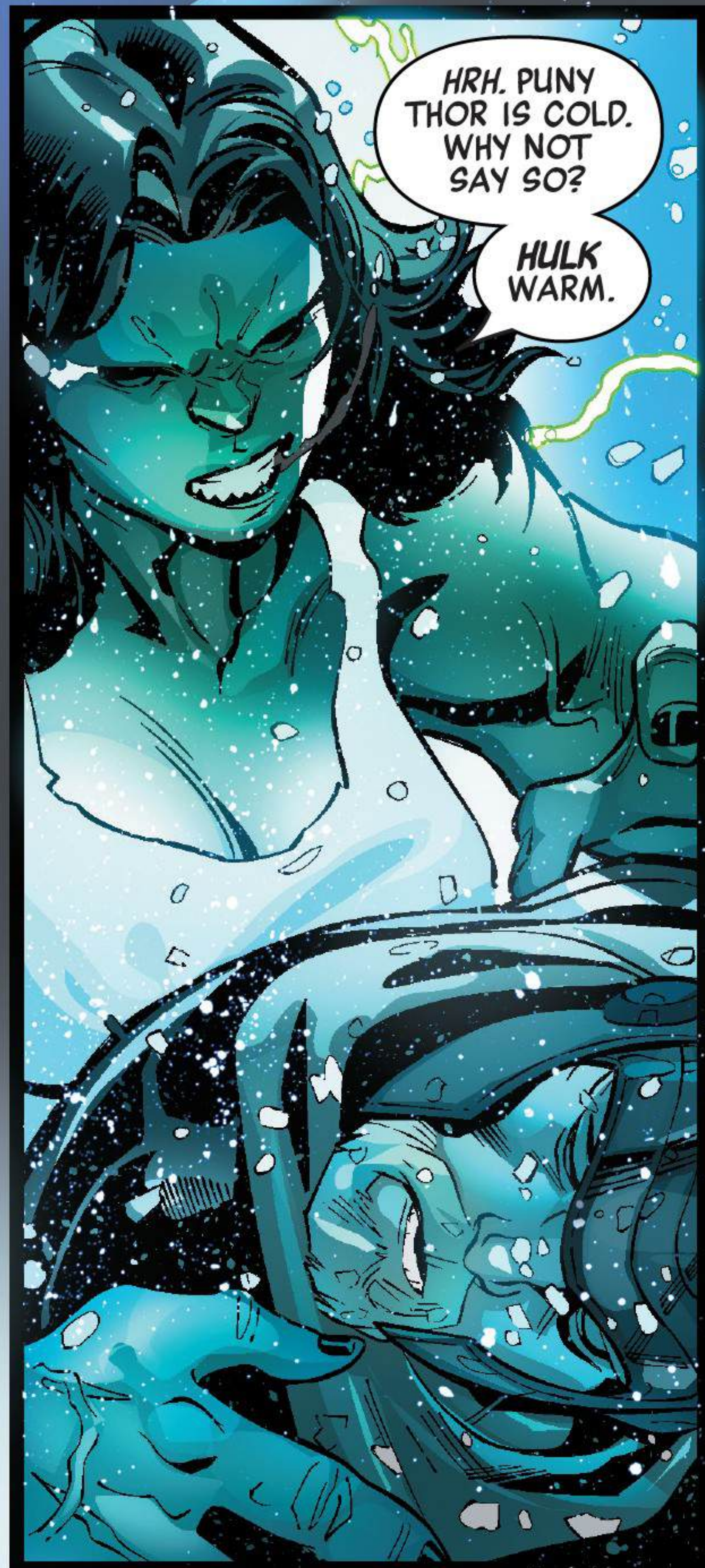
HRRGH?



SO...
COLD. CAN'T...
MOVE.

TAKE IT,
HULK. GO...
WHILE YOU
STILL...

...MHH...

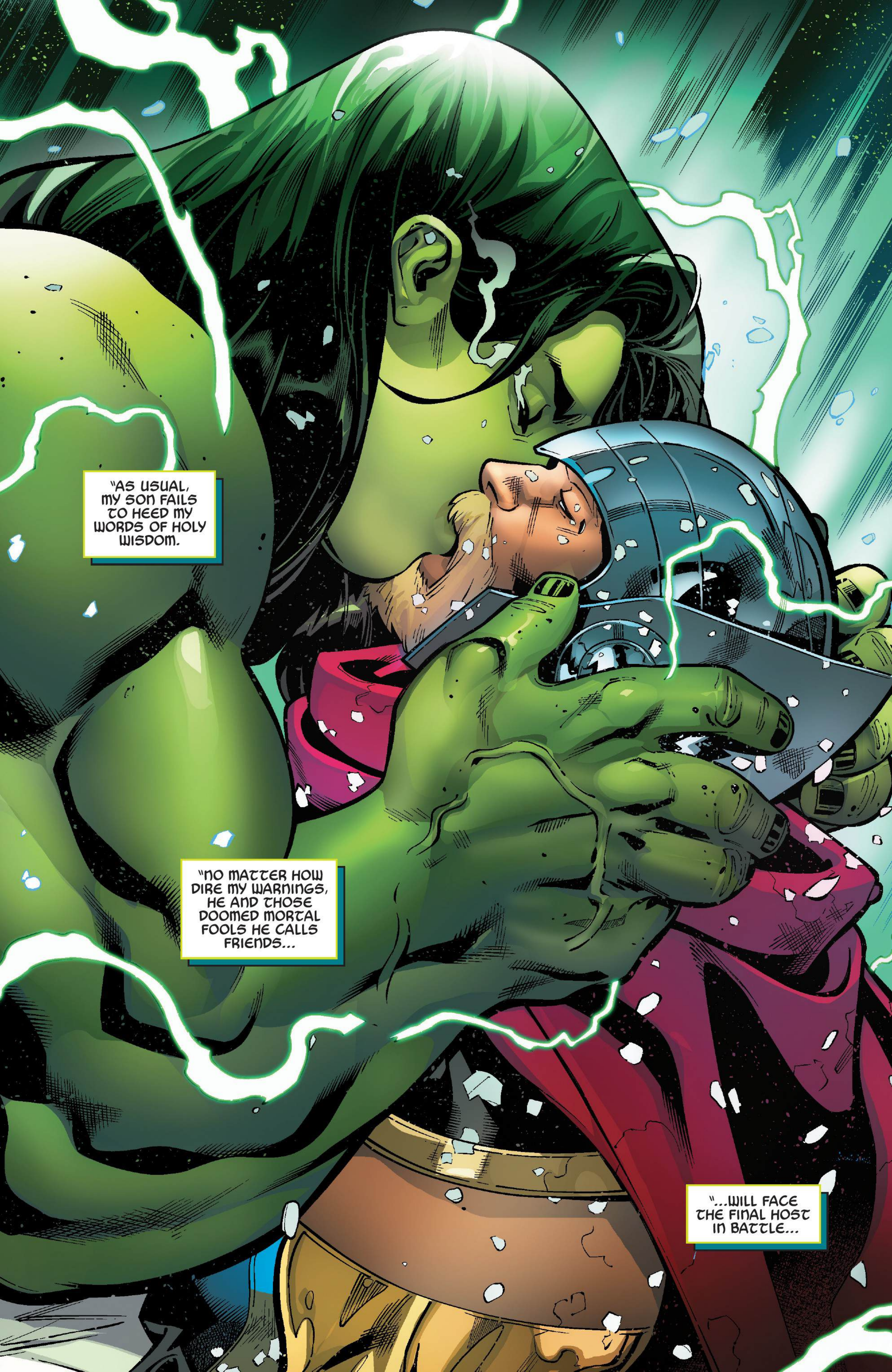


HRH. PUNY
THOR IS COLD.
WHY NOT
SAY SO?

HULK
WARM.



HULK
WARMEST ONE
THERE IS.



"AS USUAL,
MY SON FAILS
TO HEED MY
WORDS OF HOLY
WISDOM.

"NO MATTER HOW
DIRE MY WARNINGS,
HE AND THOSE
DOOMED MORTAL
FOOLS HE CALLS
FRIENDS...

"...WILL FACE
THE FINAL HOST
IN BATTLE..."



"...JUST AS MY
PRIMEVAL COMRADES
AND I ONCE FACED
THE FIRST HOST.

"THEY CAME
FOR REVENGE,
WE ASSUMED,
BECAUSE WE'D
FELLED ONE OF
THEIR OWN.

"FELLED THE
DERANGED
BASTARD
AND BURIED
IT DEEP IN
THE EARTH.

"THEY WERE LARGER
AND MORE POWERFUL
THAN ANYTHING THAT
HAS EVER LIVED, YET
WE FACED THEM
WITHOUT HESITATION.

"FACED THEM
WITH FIRE
AND FURY.

"WITH UNHOLY
RAGE AND
THE HOLIEST
OF URU.

"WITH MORE
MIGHT THAN
HAS EVER BEEN
ASSEMBLED AT
ANY TIME IN
THE HISTORY OF
THIS REALM.

"WE FACED
THEM...

"...WITHOUT
A CHANCE IN
THE WORLD."



MOTHERBOARD,
I DON'T REMEMBER
FIRE IN TODAY'S
FORECAST! FIND
ME THOSE DAMN
CELESTIALS!

YOU KNOW,
MR. STARK, USING
PROFANITY DOESN'T
MAKE MY SYSTEMS
WORK ANY--

AND DAMMIT,
WHAT'S THE
STATUS ON
MY GK II?

EN ROUTE.
LEAVING MARTIAN
ORBIT AS WE
SPEAK.

TELL IT
TO HURRY UP!
I'M NOT IN
THE MOOD TO
DIE TODAY!



OKAY, SO
IF THIS GOES
HORRIBLY WRONG,
YOU PROMISE
YOU'LL KILL ME
BEFORE I TURN
INTO A GIANT
COCKROACH,
RIGHT?

AS
QUICKLY AND
PAINLESSLY AS
POSSIBLE.

WAIT, I
WAS **JOKING**,
BUT YOU
SOUNDED--

FULL
CHARGE
IN THREE,
TWO...



LISTEN TO
ME, YOU FLAG-
DRAPED IMBECILE!
CAN YOU EVEN
UNDERSTAND
WHAT THIS
MEANS?

YOU WERE
A GRAND
MISTAKE,
CAPTAIN
AMERICA!

ALL
OF YOU
WERE!



"YOU WERE NEVER SUPPOSED TO BE HERE!"



THANK YOU...FOR, AH... SAVING MY LIFE BACK THERE, MY LADY HULK.

HRRH. WHATEVER. WANNA SMASH THINGS NOW.

AYE, THAT WE WILL DO. WITH THIS NEW WEAPON...



...THERE WILL BE MUCH SMASHING INDEED!

MAKE A GOOD, THUNDEROUS SHOW OF IT, BOY. JUST AS I ONCE DID.

AND WHEN IT'S FINISHED... WHEN IT'S ALL COME TO ITS OH-SO-PREDICTABLE END...



"...WHEN YOU
ALL LIE IN BLOOD-
DRENCHED RUIN
AT THE FEET OF
THE FINAL HOST...

"...FACE YOUR
JUDGMENT
LIKE A GOD.

TO
HEL...

...TO HEL
WITH YOU
STAR-SPAWNED
BASTARDS!

"AND SAY
FAREWELL TO
MIDGARD, ONCE
AND FOR ALL.

"JUST AS
I SHOULD
HAVE DONE."



JOSEPH MICHAEL LINSNER
1 VARIANT COVER

5 THE SECRET ORIGIN OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE



"THE FIRST *CELESTIAL*
TO EVER SET FOOT ON
THE EARTH...DID SO
FOUR BILLION YEARS AGO...

"...WHEN THIS WORLD WAS
STILL A THOROUGHLY
INSIGNIFICANT SPECK
OF MOLTEN MUD.

"INSIGNIFICANT AND
UTTERLY *LIFELESS*.

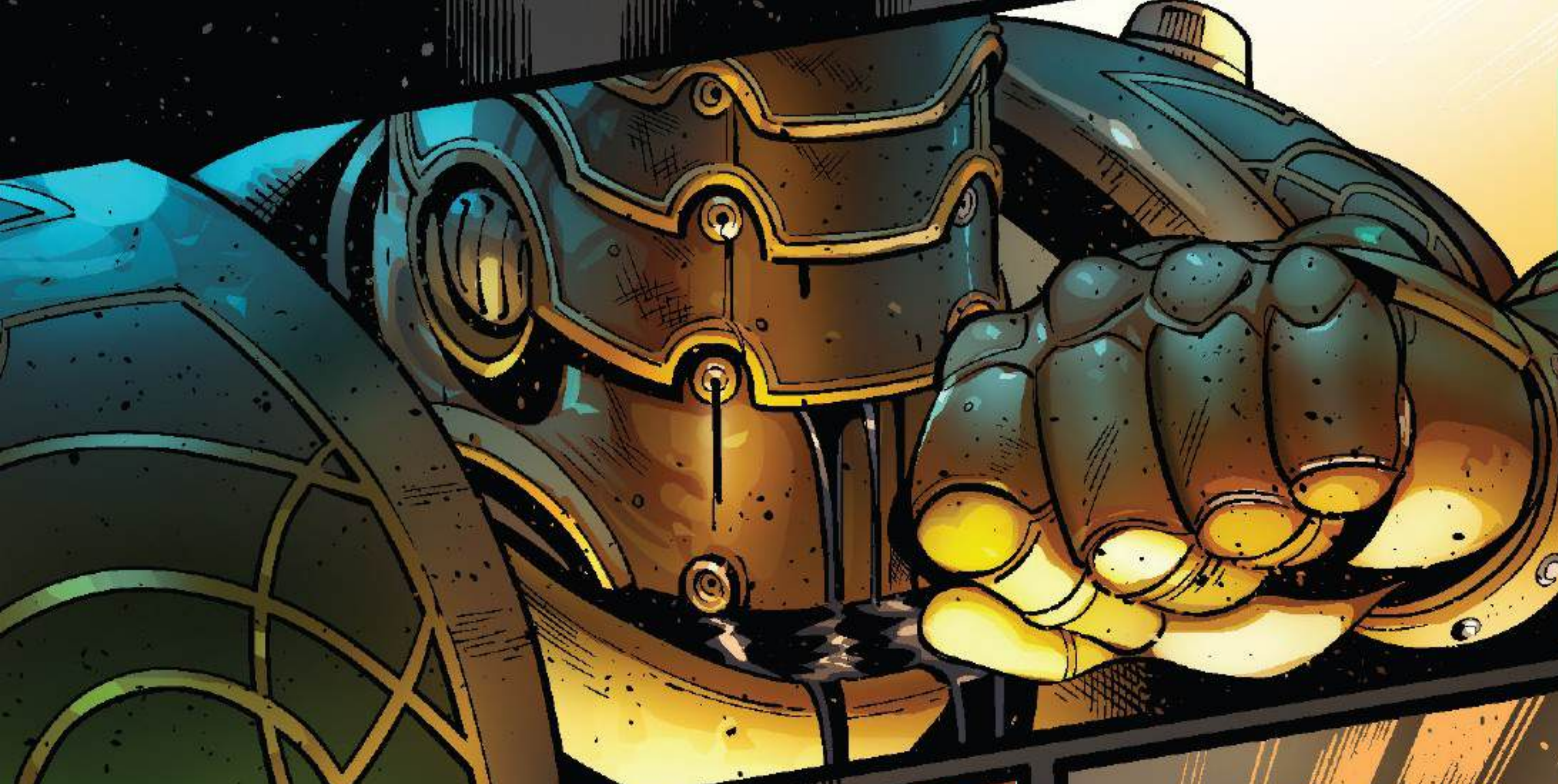
"THE *CELESTIAL* CAME,
NOT BECAUSE OF SOME
GRAND COSMIC DESIGN
OR GODLY DESTINY. IT
NEVER EVEN CONSCIOUSLY
CHOSE THIS WORLD.

"IT CAME MERELY
BECAUSE IT *FELL*.

"IT *FELL*...

"...BECAUSE IT
WAS *DYING*.



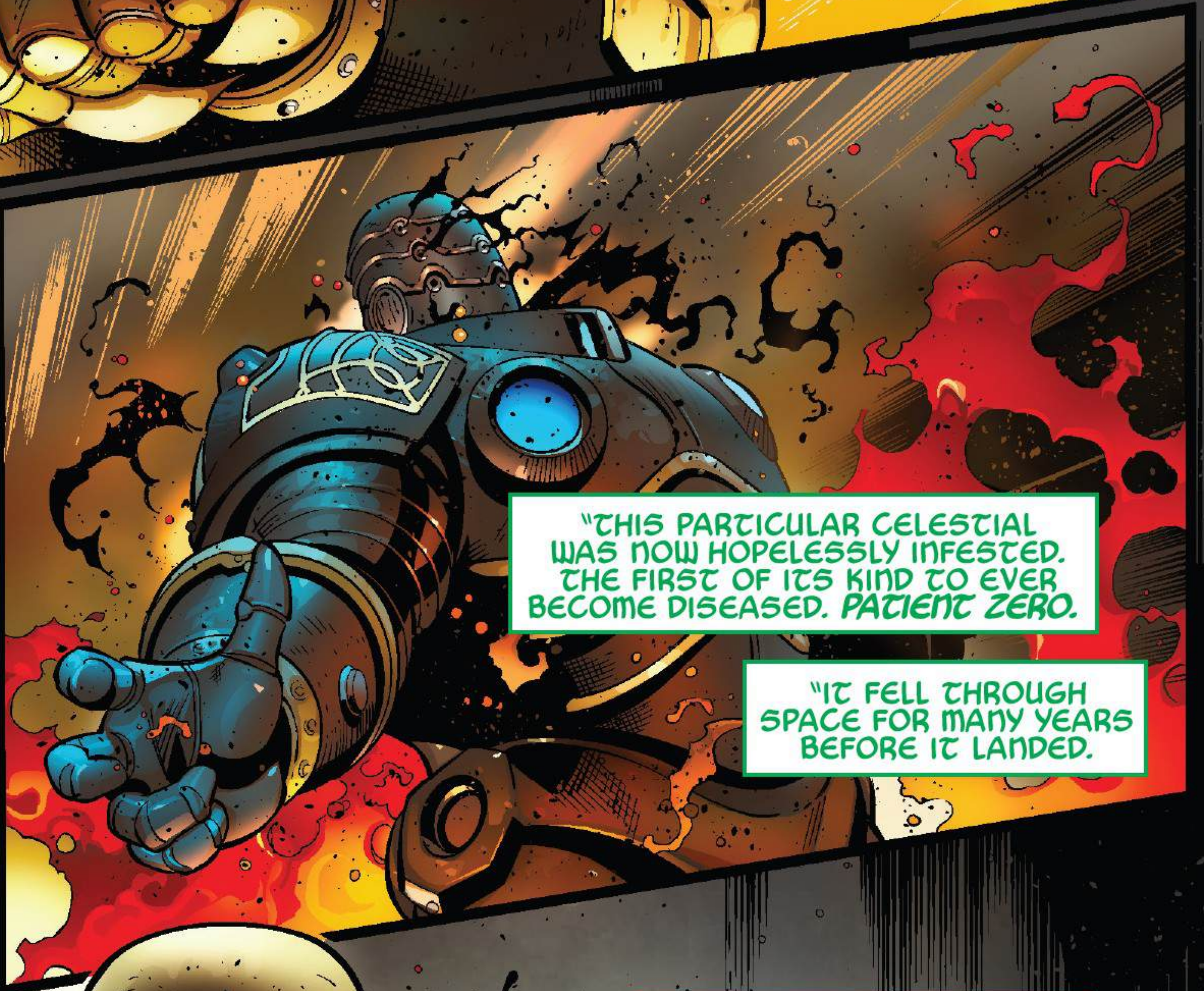


"TURNS OUT EVEN AN OMNIPOTENT SPACE GOD GETS SICK NOW AND AGAIN. AND THIS ONE HAD JUST COME DOWN WITH QUITE THE NASTY INFECTION."

"THEY WOULD COME TO BE CALLED THE HORDE. THE CELESTIAL HAD ENCOUNTERED A SWARM OF THE COSMIC LOCUSTS WHILE TRAVERSING DEEP SPACE."



"IN THOSE DAYS, THEY PREFERRED TO FEED ON INFANT WORLDS. BUT THERE WAS EVEN MORE POWER INSIDE A CELESTIAL, THEY QUICKLY DISCOVERED."



"THIS PARTICULAR CELESTIAL WAS NOW HOPELESSLY INFESTED. THE FIRST OF ITS KIND TO EVER BECOME DISEASED. PATIENT ZERO."

"IT FELL THROUGH SPACE FOR MANY YEARS BEFORE IT LANDED."

"LANDED IN THE MUCK OF EARTH. WHERE IT VOMITED AND BLED AND WEPT RADIOACTIVE TEARS."

"AND THEN SLUMPED OVER AND DIED."



"THAT SICKNESS SEEPED
INTO THE EARTH,
PERCOLATING THROUGH
THE SHIFTING
SEAS OF PRIMORDIAL
ROCK AND LAVA.



"ALONG WITH THE BLOOD
AND ROTTING FLESH OF A
HIGH-OMNIPOTENT
ALPHA CELESTIAL.

"THE INFECTION STEWED.
FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS.

"THE ENTIRE PLANET
BECAME *DISEASED*,
FOREVER ALTERING THE
EARTH'S EVOLUTIONARY
TRAJECTORY.

"TELL ME, *WHY* HAS THIS
ONE PARTICULAR, OTHERWISE
UNREMARKABLE WORLD ALWAYS
BEEN SUCH A HOTBED FOR
SUPER-POWERED MADNESS?

"WHY IS THE EARTH SO
UNIQUELY ECCENTRIC
WITHIN THE
NEAR-INFINITE NUMBER
OF PLANETS STREWN
ACROSS THE HEAVENS?



"WHY INDEED?

"NOT BECAUSE OF ANY GRAND
PURPOSE, I CAN ASSURE YOU.

"BUT BECAUSE OF THAT
BUBBLING, BLACK PUDDLE OF
CELESTIAL *REGURGITATION*.
AND THE *MONSTROUS*
THINGS THAT WOULD COME
SLITHERING OUT OF IT.



"ANY GUESSES AS TO
WHAT THOSE MONSTERS
WERE. HMMM?"



THEY WERE YOU!

YES, YOU, CAPTAIN AMERICA. YOU AND ALL YOUR MUTATED, GAMMA-IRRADIATED, WEB-SLINGING ILK.

AND *THIS* IS WHO YOU HAVE TO THANK.



THE ICY WATERS BENEATH THE NORTH POLE.

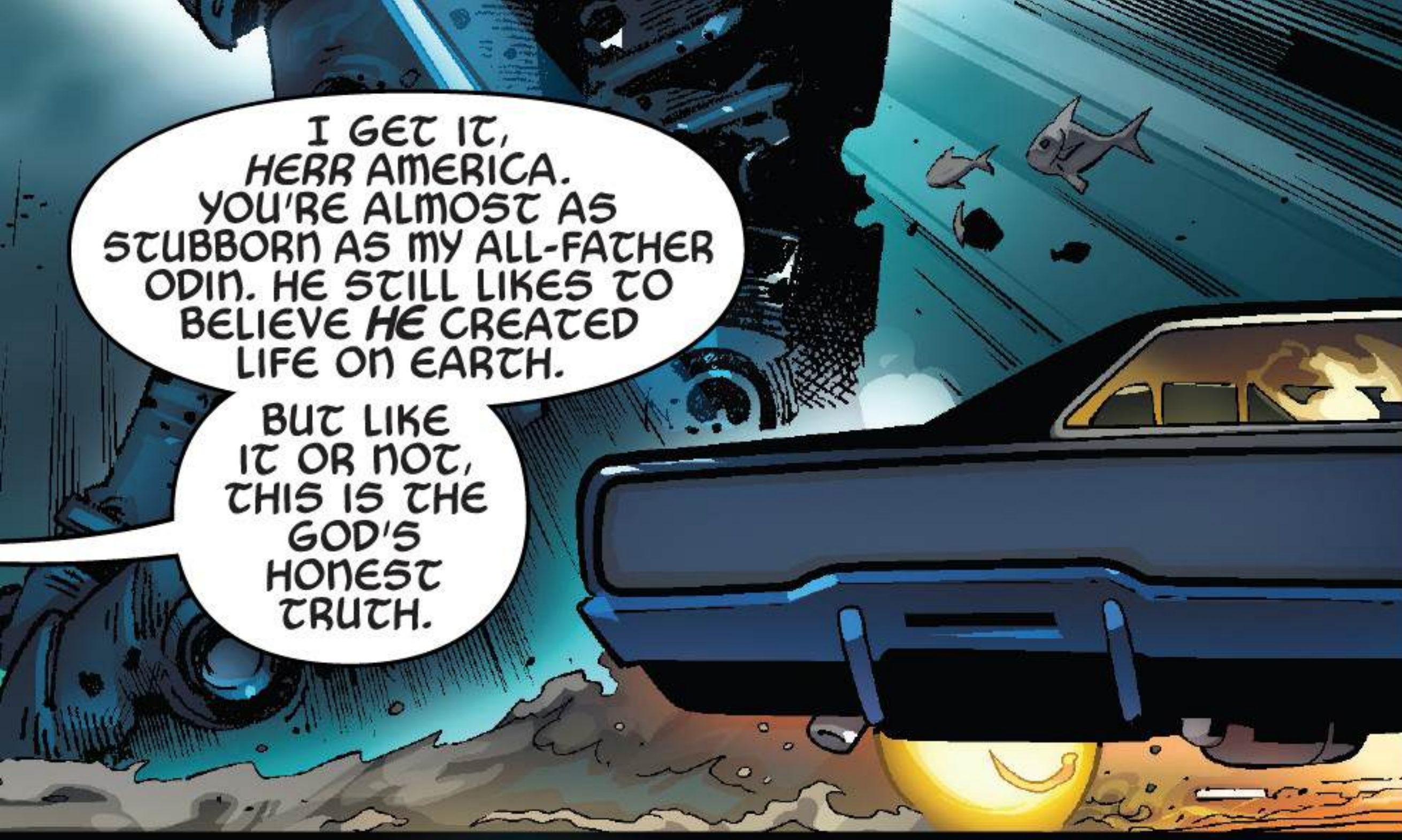
THE PROGENITOR.

THE ORIGIN OF THE WORLD AS YOU KNOW IT.

THE GOD WHO DIED SO THAT YOU MIGHT LIVE.

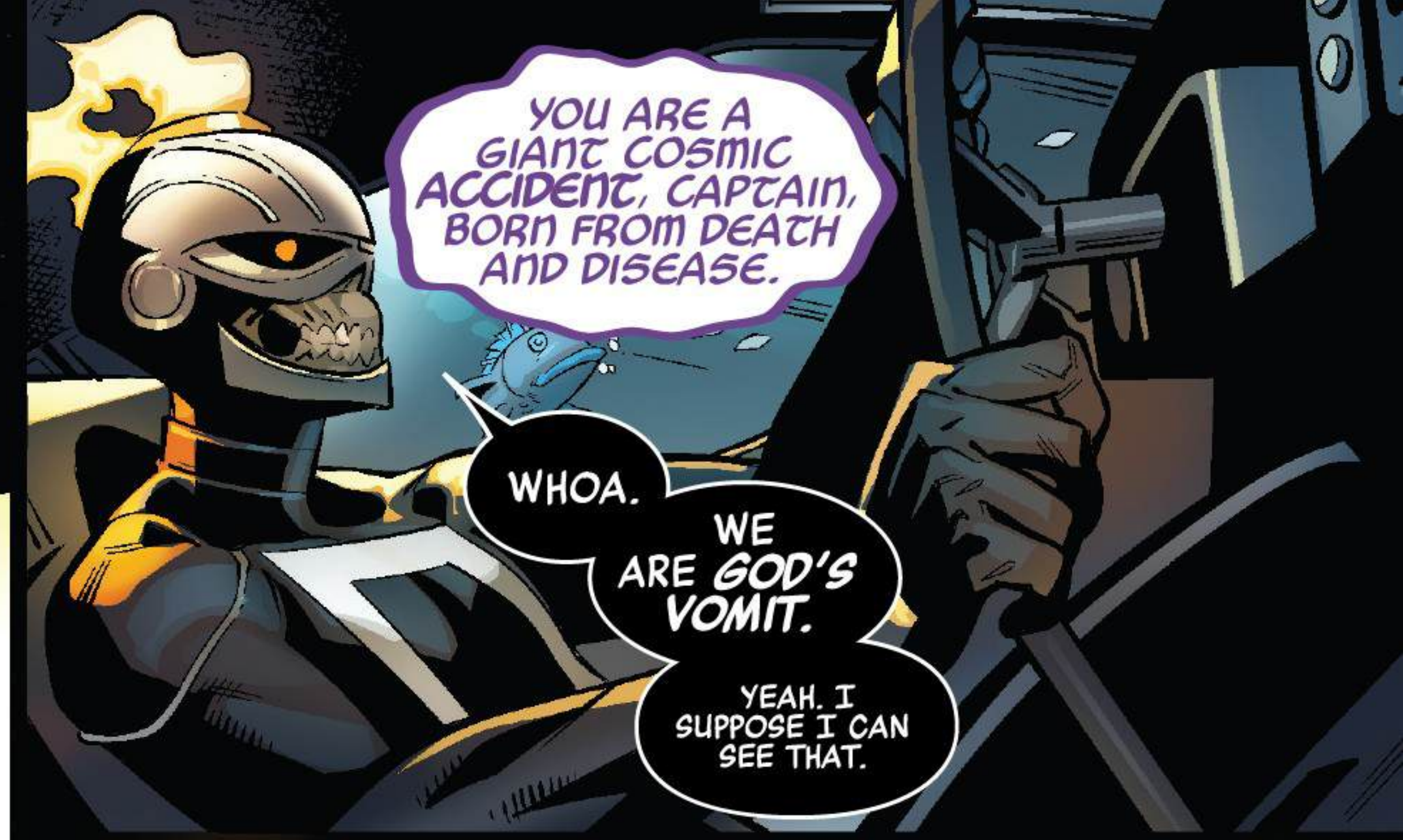
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME WITH THE HISTORY LESSON, LOKI. I'VE ALREADY *LIVED* THROUGH ALL THE HISTORY I NEED TO KNOW.





I GET IT, HERR AMERICA. YOU'RE ALMOST AS STUBBORN AS MY ALL-FATHER ODIN. HE STILL LIKES TO BELIEVE HE CREATED LIFE ON EARTH.

BUT LIKE IT OR NOT, THIS IS THE GOD'S HONEST TRUTH.



YOU ARE A GIANT COSMIC ACCIDENT, CAPTAIN, BORN FROM DEATH AND DISEASE.

WHOA.

WE ARE GOD'S VOMIT.

YEAH. I SUPPOSE I CAN SEE THAT.



YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU, LOKI? IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW LIFE STARTED. IT ONLY MATTERS WHAT WE DO WITH IT.

AND WHAT I PLAN ON DOING WITH MINE...



...IS WHATEVER IT TAKES TO STOP YOU AND YOUR FINAL HOST!

GUUGH!

I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL. I'M ALSO A DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE EYES OF EVERY PARENT I'VE EVER KNOWN.

BUT UNLIKE ME, YOU HAVE NOT GROWN BEYOND YOUR NATURE, CAPTAIN. AND THE ONLY WAY TO DO THAT...IS TO KNOW THE TRUTH.

IN ALL ITS GRUESOME, INGLOUS DETAIL.

HGGK!



"THE NEXT CELESTIAL
CAME TO EARTH IN
ONE MILLION BC,
SEEKING THE FIRST,
THE PROGENITOR,
WHO'D DISAPPEARED 50
MANY YEARS BEFORE.

"I BELIEVE THEY MIGHT HAVE
BEEN LOVERS, THOUGH THERE
ARE NO WORDS FOR SUCH THINGS
IN THE CELESTIAL LANGUAGE.

"THIS SECOND CELESTIAL,
NAMED ZGREB THE ASPIRANT,
SOON FOUND THEIR LOVER'S
LONELY PLACE OF DYING, THE
CORPSE NOW TEEMING WITH
MILLIONS OF WRITHING
HORDE BUGS.

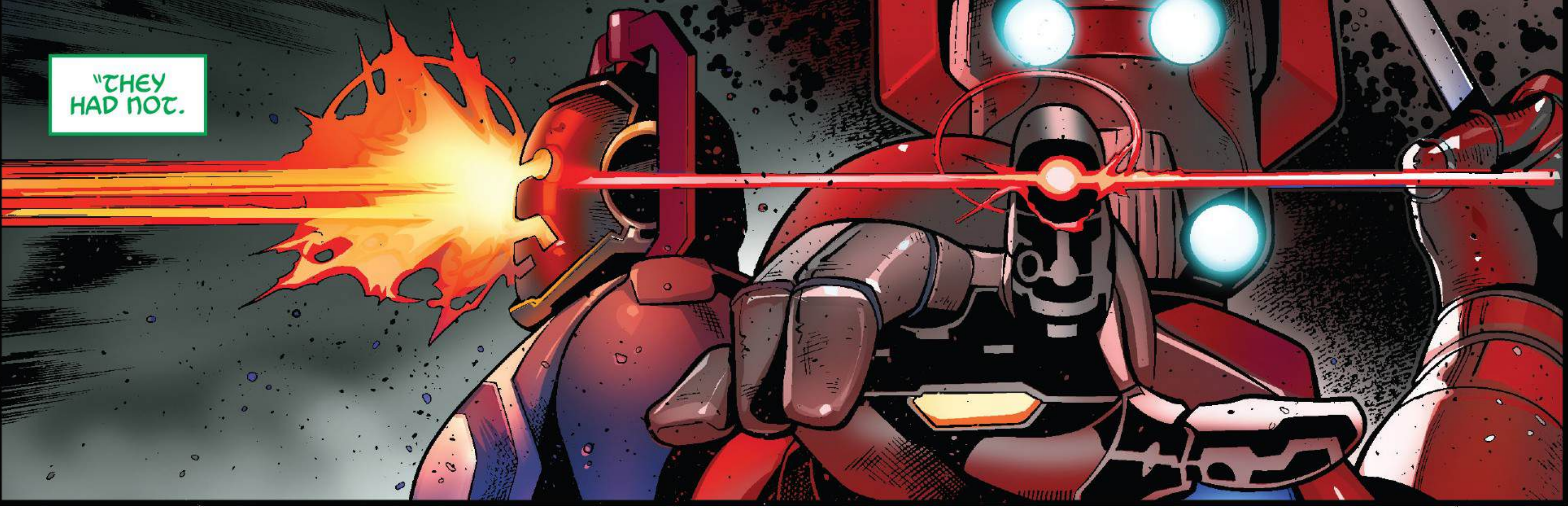
"THE SIGHT OF IT
MUST HAVE
DRIVEN POOR
ZGREB QUITE MAD.

"OR PERHAPS IT WAS THE HORDE
INFECTION THAT QUICKLY FOUND
ITSELF A FRESH MEAL. EITHER WAY,
ZGREB THE ASPIRANT FOUND
NO LOVE ON THIS WORLD.

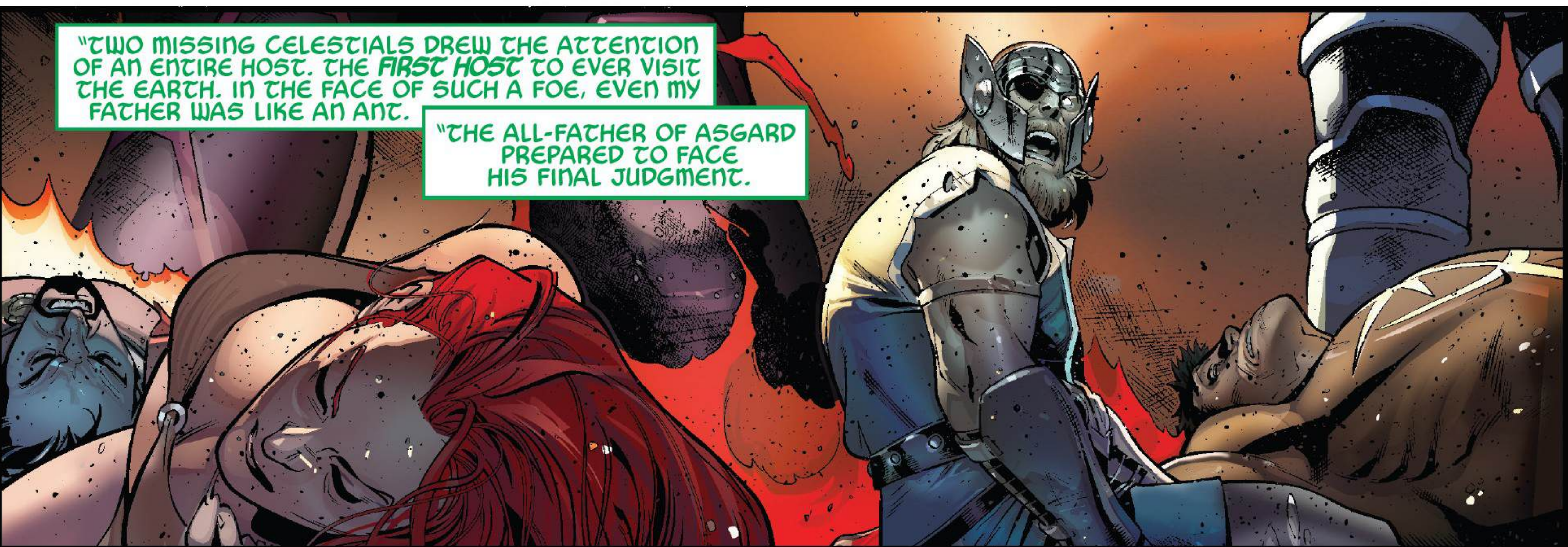
"NO LOVE
AT ALL.

"INSTEAD, MY FATHER AND HIS PREHISTORIC
HENCHMEN BLUDGEONED THE POOR
LOVESICK CELESTIAL SENSELESS AND LEFT
IT FOR DEAD DEEP WITHIN THE EARTH.

"THEY HOPED
THEY'D SEEN
THE LAST OF
ITS KIND.

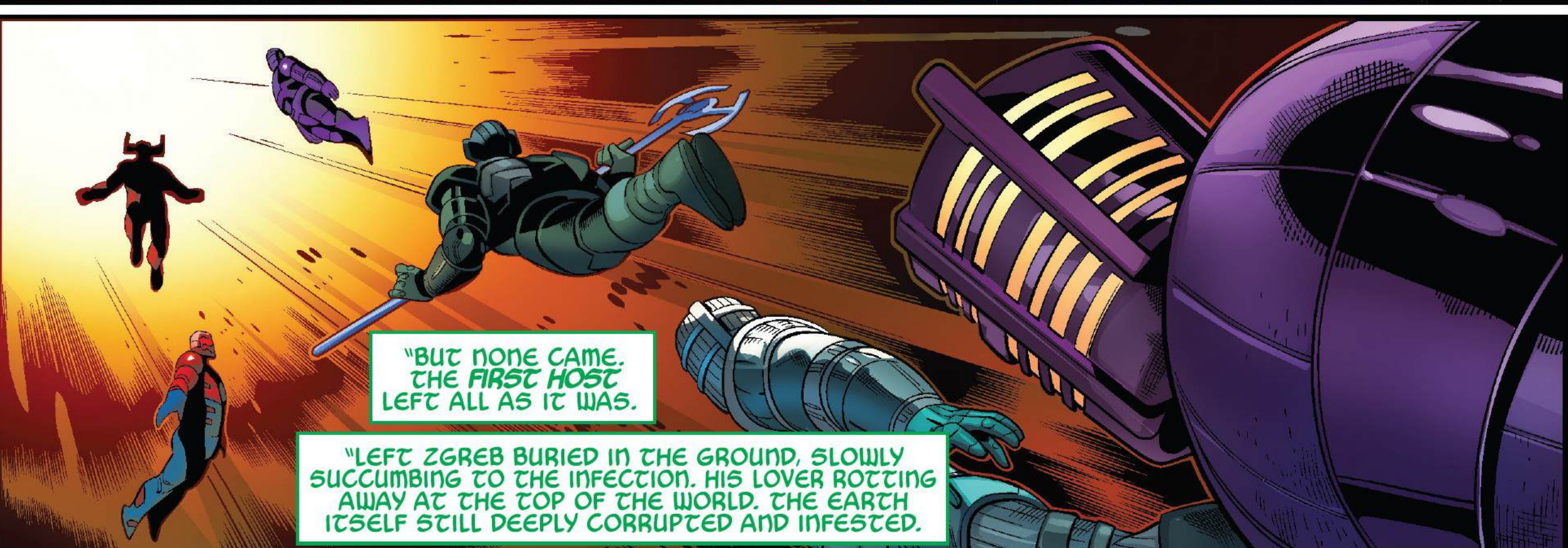


"THEY
HAD NOT."



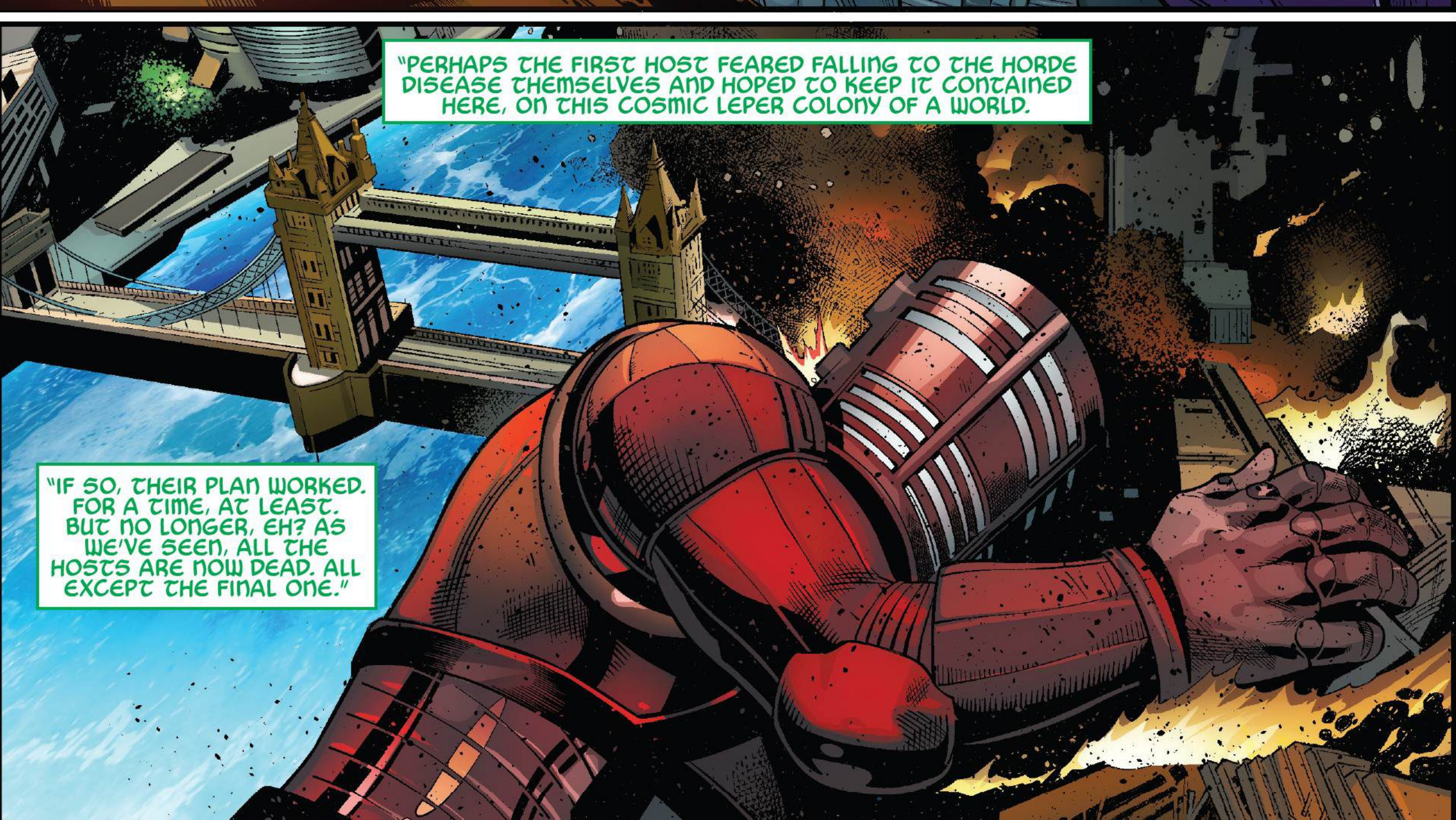
"TWO MISSING CELESTIALS DREW THE ATTENTION
OF AN ENTIRE HOST. THE **FIRST HOST** TO EVER VISIT
THE EARTH. IN THE FACE OF SUCH A FOE, EVEN MY
FATHER WAS LIKE AN ANT."

"THE ALL-FATHER OF ASGARD
PREPARED TO FACE
HIS FINAL JUDGMENT."



"BUT NONE CAME.
THE **FIRST HOST**
LEFT ALL AS IT WAS."

"LEFT ZGREG BURIED IN THE GROUND, SLOWLY
SUCCUMBING TO THE INFECTION. HIS LOVER ROTTING
AWAY AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD. THE EARTH
ITSELF STILL DEEPLY CORRUPTED AND INFESTED."



"PERHAPS THE FIRST HOST FEARED FALLING TO THE HORDE
DISEASE THEMSELVES AND HOPED TO KEEP IT CONTAINED
HERE, ON THIS COSMIC LEPER COLONY OF A WORLD."

"IF SO, THEIR PLAN WORKED.
FOR A TIME, AT LEAST.
BUT NO LONGER, EH? AS
WE'VE SEEN, ALL THE
HOSTS ARE NOW DEAD. ALL
EXCEPT THE FINAL ONE."

ALL EXCEPT FOR *mine*.

HMM, WHAT DO YOU THINK, EL CAPITAN? STILL NOT CONVINCED THAT THESE ARE THE END TIMES YOU AND YOUR DISEASED KIND SO JUSTLY DESERVE?

I THINK YOU'RE AS FULL OF LIES AS YOUR BROTHER IS OF MEAD.

HEH. I MERELY TELL YOU THE TALE AS IT WAS TOLD TO ME. BY ZGREB WHEN I DUG THE POOR FELLOW UP FROM HIS LONG SLUMBER.

"THE HORDE DISEASE DID NOT KILL ZGREB AS IT HAD HIS LOVER. THE HORDE HAD LEARNED SINCE THEN. THEY **CHANGED** HIM, INTO THE FIRST OF THEIR OWN RABID BREED OF **DARK CELESTIAL**."

"HE'S CALLED **ZGREB THE SORROWER** NOW, AND TOGETHER WITH THE REST OF HIS KIND, HE HAS INFECTED AND FELLED EVERY CELESTIAL IN EXISTENCE."

"THEIR BODIES LITTER THE GROUND ALL OVER THE EARTH, FEEDING THE HORDE, GROWING THEIR POWER. RIGHT HERE WHERE THE DISEASE BEGAN."

YOUR GIGANTIC MURDEROUS CHICKENS HAVE AT LAST COME HOME TO ROO--

UUGH!

YOU REALLY LOVE TO HEAR YOURSELF TALK, DON'T YOU?

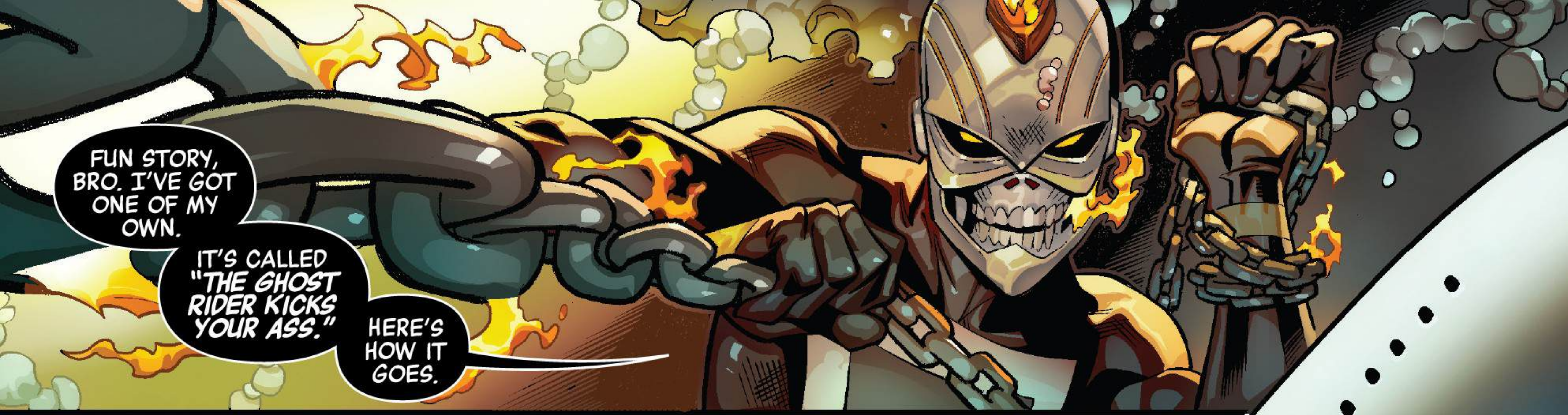
BUT WHO'LL BE AROUND TO LISTEN ONCE WE'VE ALL BEEN FED TO SPACE BUGS? WHAT IS IT YOU THINK YOU'RE GETTING OUT OF--

GAGGHK!

THIS WORLD HAS BEEN SICK AND SOILING ITSELF FOR BILLIONS OF YEARS! WHAT I DO IS DONE OUT OF **MERCY!**

THE EARTH MUST BE LANCED, LIKE A GREAT FESTERING BOIL! AND ONCE THE FINAL HOST HAS UNLEASHED THE FULL FORCE OF THE HORDE INFECTION, THAT'S **EXACTLY** WHAT WILL--

HUKK!



FUN STORY, BRO. I'VE GOT ONE OF MY OWN.

IT'S CALLED "THE GHOST RIDER KICKS YOUR ASS."

HERE'S HOW IT GOES.

**MEANWHILE,
IN THE BURNING SKIES OF EARTH.**



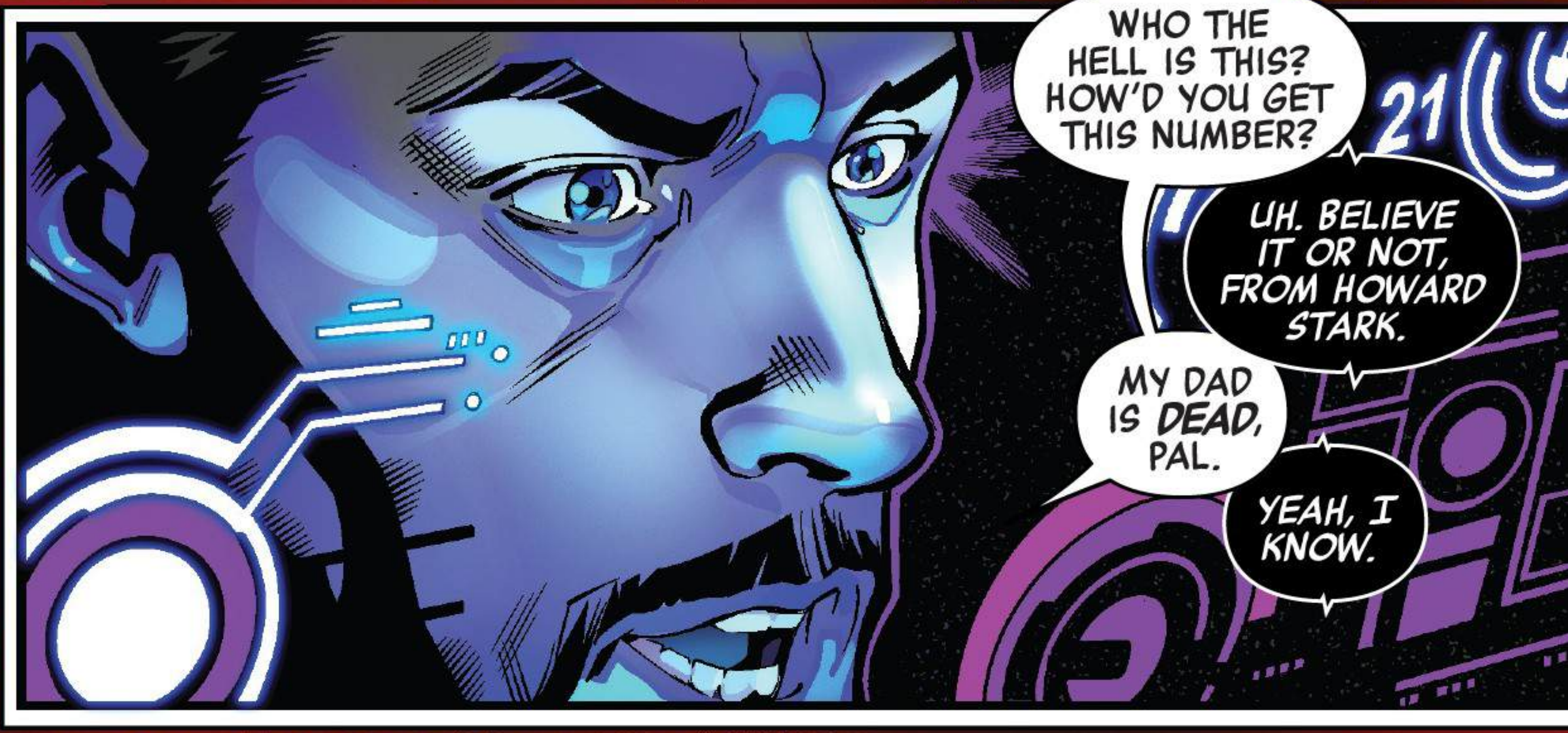
UPDATE, MOTHERBOARD. WHAT'S THE STATUS OF MY GK II?

NEARING EARTH ORBIT, MR. STARK. ETA, ELEVEN MINUTES.

THE SKIES ARE ON FIRE! WE WON'T LAST ELEVEN MINUTES UNLESS WE FIND THE FINAL HOST!

TONY, YOU'VE GOT AN INCOMING CALL FROM AN UNKNOWN ORIGIN.

HELLO?



WHO THE HELL IS THIS? HOW'D YOU GET THIS NUMBER?

UH. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, FROM HOWARD STARK.

MY DAD IS DEAD, PAL.

YEAH, I KNOW.

21

10



I GUESS
MY CAR TALKED
TO HIM. HE SAYS
HI.

ANYWAY, I
JUST WANTED YOU
TO KNOW THAT I FOUND
CAPTAIN AMERICA, AND
THOSE *SPACE GIANTS*,
TOO.

UH, THIS IS
GHOST RIDER, BY
THE WAY.

TONY, WE'RE
COMING IN HOT!
WHERE DO YOU
WANT THESE
THINGS?

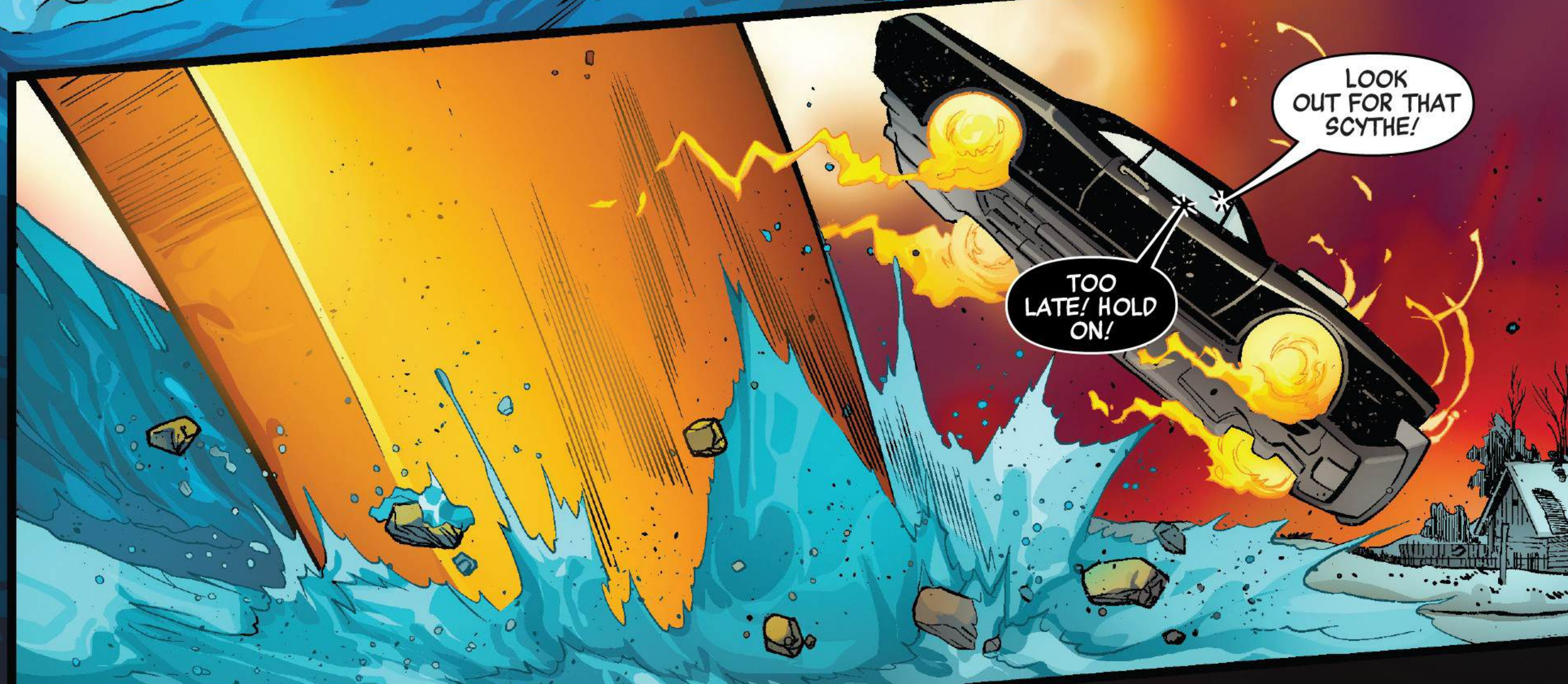
STEVE?
WHERE ARE
YOU?



NOT SURE.
I THINK WE
JUST PASSED
SWEDEN.

WE'LL COME
TO YOU! DON'T
LOSE THEM!

YEAH, THAT
DEFINITELY
WON'T BE A
PROBLEM.



LOOK
OUT FOR THAT
SCYTHE!

TOO
LATE! HOLD
ON!



THAT WAS
SOME IMPRESSIVE
DRIVING.

I JUST
SAVED YOUR LIFE.
THE LEAST YOU COULD
DO IS NOT BE A
SMARTASS. WHERE
ARE WE?

LOOKS LIKE
RUSSIA. AND STARK'S
THE SMARTASS, KID. I'M
THE **HARDASS**. SO GET YOUR
HEAD IN THE GAME,
GHOST RIDER.

<HURRY!
YOU MUST
EVACUATE THE
TOWN!>*

*TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN.



GAARRGGH!

FINAL HOST!
GET ME OUT OF
THIS ODIN-DAMNED
TRUNK! AND THEN
BURN EVERYTHING
YOU SEE!

"STARTING
WITH THE
AVENGERS!"





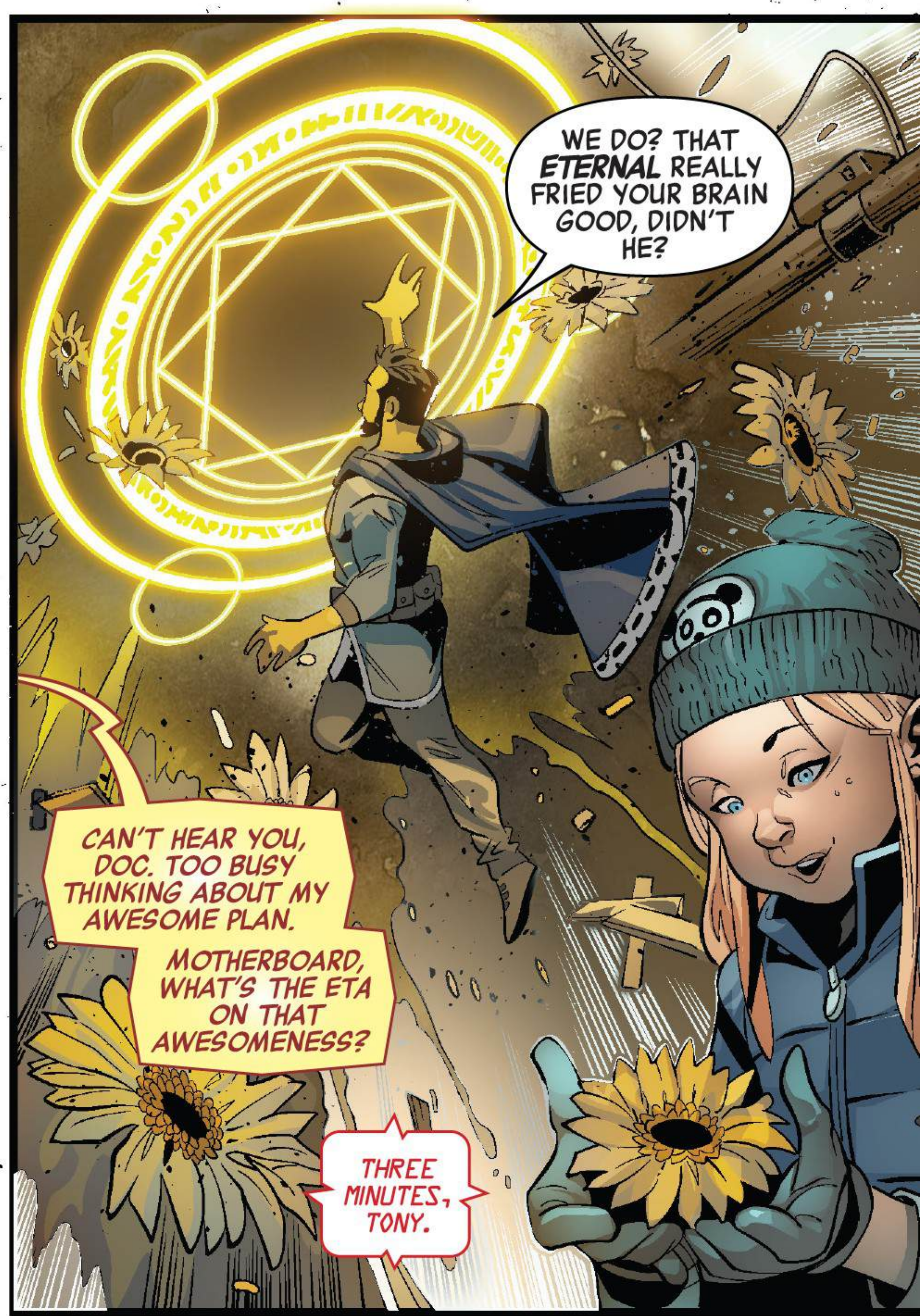
WAIT, THE AVENGERS ARE HERE? COOL, THEN I CAN GO HOME.

I THINK HE MEANS US, TONY.



THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT. IF WE WERE THE AVENGERS, WE'D ALREADY HAVE A CUNNING LAST-MINUTE PLAN TO SAVE THE WORLD.

OH, WAIT, WE DO!



WE DO? THAT **ETERNAL** REALLY FRIED YOUR BRAIN GOOD, DIDN'T HE?

CAN'T HEAR YOU, DOC. TOO BUSY THINKING ABOUT MY AWESOME PLAN.

MOTHERBOARD, WHAT'S THE ETA ON THAT AWESOMENESS?

THREE MINUTES, TONY.



WERE THE GIANT INSECTS PART OF YOUR AWESOME PLAN?

NO, BUT I LOVE SURPRISES.

THEN YOU'LL LOVE THIS.



WHOA.
PANTHER,
HOW DID
YOU...

I USED THE
LABORATORIES OF
ALPHA FLIGHT TO CHARGE
CAROL'S UNIQUE PHYSIOLOGY
AND MY OWN SUIT WITH THE
SAME ENERGY AS THESE
HORDE CREATURES.

IN OTHER
WORDS, LEAVE
THE BUGS TO
US.

GREAT.
THAT JUST
LEAVES THE
UNSTOPPABLE
SPACE
GIANTS.

STEVE, YOU AND
RACER X LEARN
ANYTHING USEFUL
ON YOUR JOYRIDE?

IT'S ALL
CONNECTED. THOSE
CELESTIALS ARE RABID
DOGS, INFECTED BY THE
HORDE. T'CHALLA, CAN
YOU KNOCK OUT ALL
THE BUGS AT
ONCE?

WITH ENOUGH
POWER, I BELIEVE
I COULD, BUT IT WOULD
TAKE MEGATONS TO
PENETRATE THE
CELESTIAL ARMOR.

THEN WE PUNCH
THEM IN THE FACE
WITH A FEW
MEGATONS.

WHO'S
RACER X?



YOU SPEAK
OF PUNCHING
FACES?

AYE,
THAT WE
CAN DO.

RRGGH!!

WHERE
HAVE YOU TWO
BEEN?

SMASHING.

SEEKING
ANSWERS
FROM MY
FATHER IN
ASGARD.

SMASHING
AND KISSING.

AH, AND WE,
UH, HAVE FOUND
AN ANCIENT MAGICAL
WEAPON THAT WILL
HELP US STAND ON
MORE EQUAL FOOTING
WITH THESE DARK
CELESTIALS.

GIMME.

HOLD, MY
LADY. THE MAGIC
IN THE BLOOD OF
YMIR COULD VERY
WELL BE THE DEATH
OF US BOTH.

ARE YOU
SURE YOU'RE OF
SOUND ENOUGH MIND
TO MAKE SUCH A
DECISION?



HULK...
CHANGE.

BUT
HULK STILL...
JEN-NI-FER
WAL-TERS.

AND
HULK... HERE
FOR...

...REASONS.

GOOD
GAMMA
REASONS.



THEN
HERE'S TO
REASONS,
LADY HULK.

HRRGH.
TASTES LIKE
HELL.

AYE, HEL
IS DEFINITELY
HOW IT FEELS
IN MY GUTS
RIGHT...

ARRGGH!

RRRGHH!

WHAT'S
HAPPENING?
WHAT DID
YOU TWO...

BRING IT
ON, ROACHES!
I DIDN'T GET
DOLLED UP FOR
NOTHING!

WE SIMPLY
DON'T HAVE THE
FIREPOWER TO TAKE
DOWN THOSE CELESTIALS.
STEPHEN, PHASE ME INTO
ONE OF THEM. I'LL
SHORT OUT THE HORDE
FROM INSIDE.

NO WAY AM
I HELPING YOU DO
THAT, T'CHALLA. IT'S
INSANE, SUICIDAL AND
UNNECESSARILY
DISGUSTING.

IN OTHER
WORDS, I'LL DO
IT *MYSELF*.

PUT A PIN IN THE
KAMIKAZE ROUTINE,
FELLAS. MY AWESOME
PLAN JUST ARRIVED.

MOONS OF
MUNNIPOR, WHAT
IS THAT?

**THE GODKILLER
MARK II.** I KEEP
IT PARKED ON MARS
FOR EVENTUALITIES
SUCH AS THIS.

GODS
ALMIGHTY. HOW
ARE YOU THIS
RICH?

AM I? I
HADN'T NOTICED.
AM I SUPER GOOD-
LOOKING TOO?

OPEN THE POD
BAY DOORS,
MOTHERBOARD.
I'M COMING IN.

HOLD
ON!

YOU'RE CLEAR! GO! RUN AWAY!

I SHOULD GET IN MY CAR AND DRIVE THE HELL OUTTA...

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.

BUT THIS IS YOUR FIGHT TOO, GHOST RIDER.

YOU'RE HERE FOR A REASON. WE ALL ARE. THE WORLD NEEDS US.

THIS IS INSANE.

I FIGHT DRUG DEALERS AND THE OCCASIONAL DEMON OR TWO, BUT THIS...

AND I'D LOVE TO HELP THE WORLD, CAP, BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN FIT ONE OF THOSE *CELESTIALS* IN MY TRUNK.

I CARRY THE SHIELD. NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND. YOU'RE THE SAME. YOU TURNED THAT TRACTOR INTO A FLAMING RIDE JUST BY TOUCHING IT.

YOU WANNA GO, I WON'T STOP YOU. BUT IF YOU STAY...

...I'M GONNA NEED ALL THE FIRE YOU'VE GOT.

OKAY.

GUESS THAT MEANS I NEED TO UPGRADE FROM THE TRACTOR.

I DID?

YOU'RE MORE THAN A CAR. MAYBE MORE THAN ANY GHOST RIDER I'VE EVER KNOWN.





THIS IS SO
GROSS AND
STUPID. I REALLY
HOPE NOBODY'S
RECORDING
THIS.



THIS HOT
ENOUGH FOR
YA, CAP?!

HOLY CRAP.
NOW *THOSE*
ARE SOME
AVENGERS.

MAN, I
WANNA BE
GIANT, TOO.
BUG DUTY
SUCKS.

GAAGGH!
WHERE IS THAT
FLAME-HEADED
CHILD?!

I WILL
FEED HIM HIS
OWN CAR!

THIS...
CAN'T BE REALLY
HAPPENING.

SO MUCH
POWER AT MY
FINGERTIPS. AND
IT'S NOT JUST
THE CELESTIAL.
THIS...IS ME.

JUST
EXACTLY
HOW STRONG
AM I?

I WOULDN'T
WORRY ABOUT
HIM.

YOU'VE GOT
MORE PRESSING
PROBLEMS TO DEAL
WITH, LOKI.

LIKE THE
**SORCERER
SUPREME.**

BRINGETH IT
ON, YOU CHEAP
CONJURER!

HEY, NICE
WORK, FAST AND
THE FURIOUS. NOW
WHATTA YA SAY,
KID? YOU READY
TO SAVE THE
WORLD?

I...I
SAY...

PATIENCE,
CAROL. HOOK UP THE
REST OF THESE HORDE
CREATURES AND WE'LL
CHARGE OUR BATTERIES
TO THE MAX.

I WANT
IN ON
THAT.



HELL
#&@*%
YEAH, I
AM!

HUZZAH! FOR
MIDGARD!

RRGGGH!!!

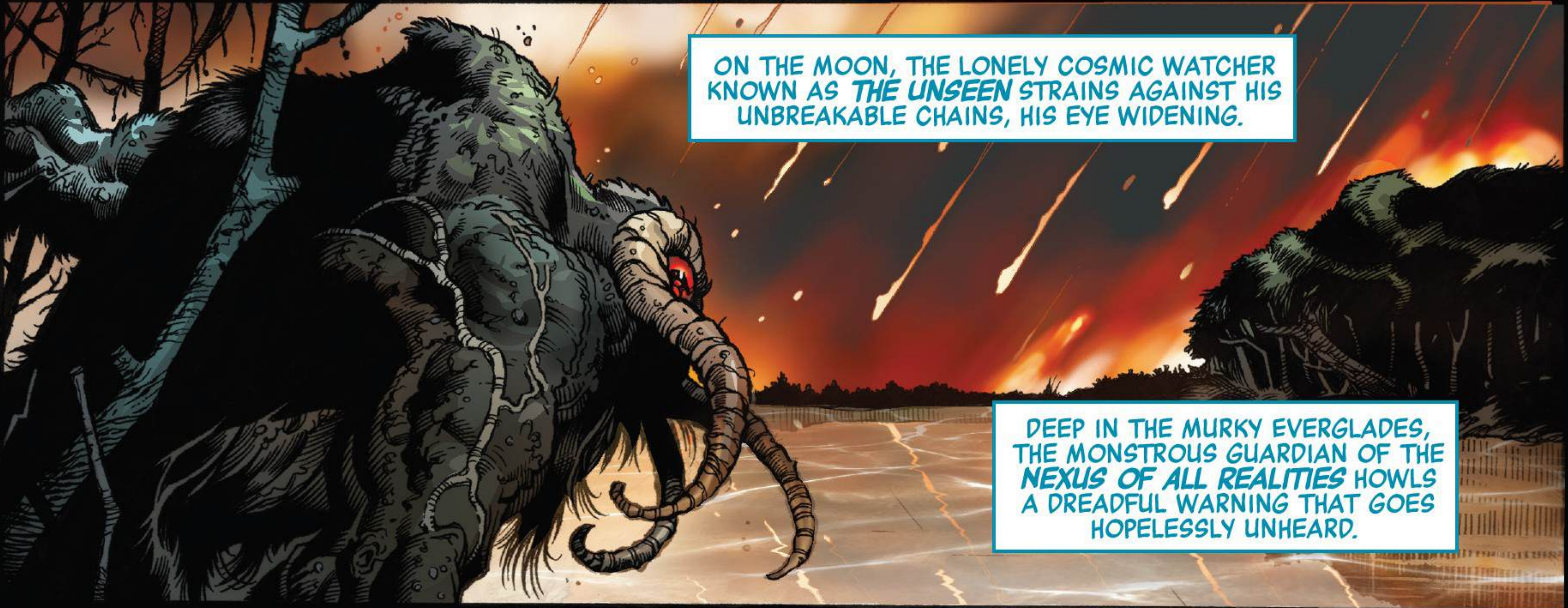
THEY HEARD
THAT #&@*% FOR A
THOUSAND MILES, KID.
I LIKE YOUR STYLE.

NOW C'MON,
GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS.
LET'S SHOW THESE
CELESTIALS
WHAT IT'S LIKE...

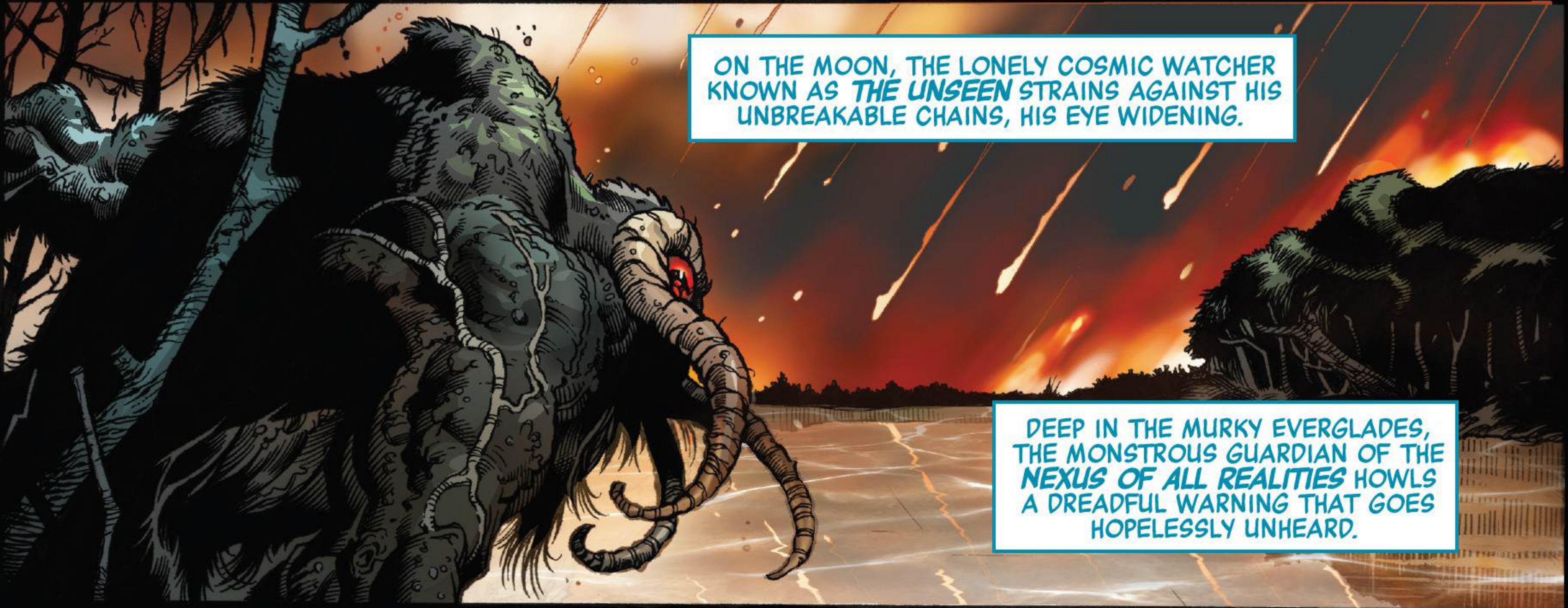
...WHEN THEY
PICK ON SOMEONE
THEIR OWN SIZE!

6 PLANET OF PATHOGENS

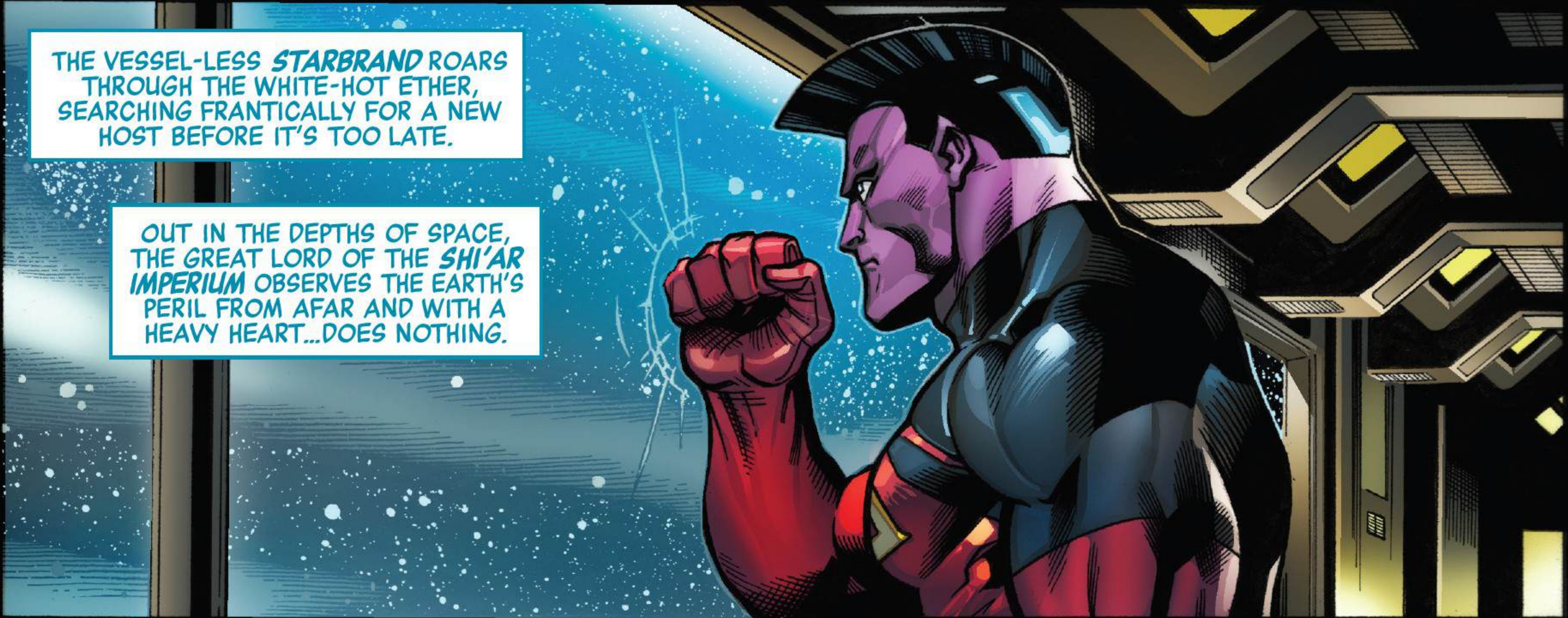




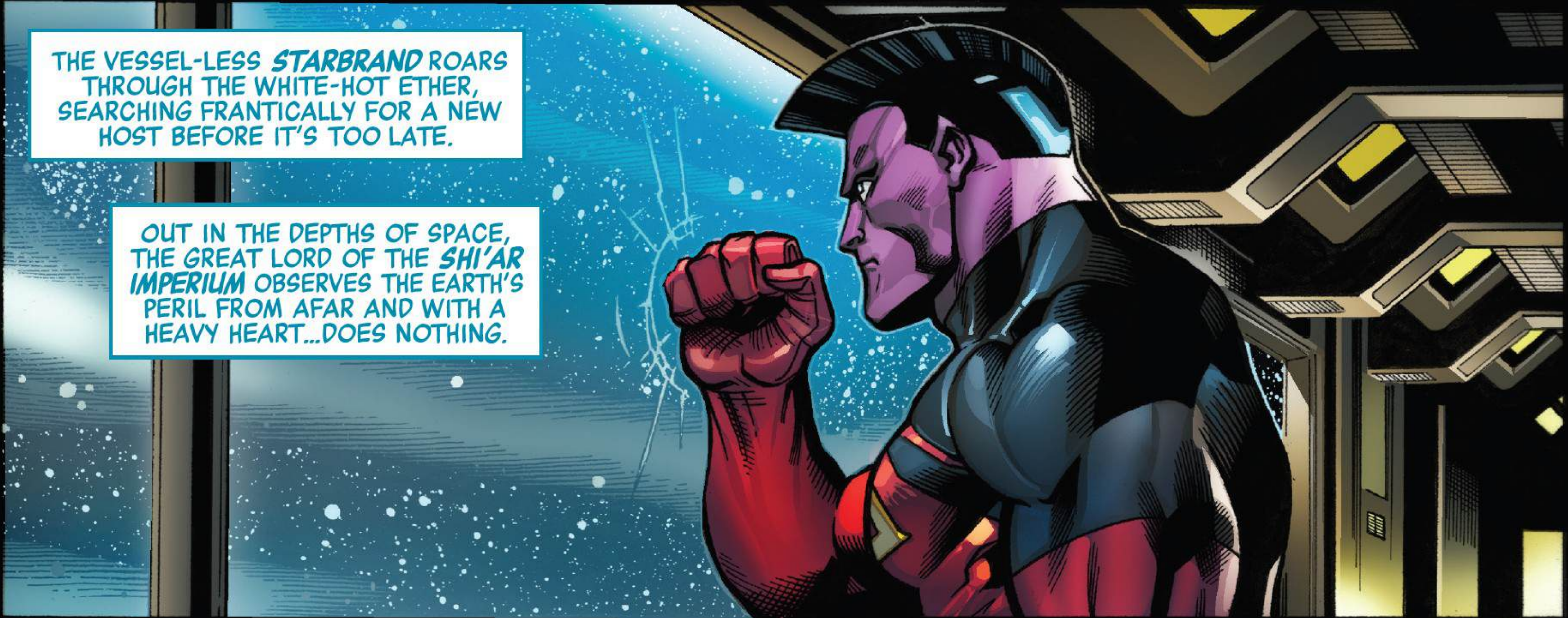
ON THE MOON, THE LONELY COSMIC WATCHER KNOWN AS **THE UNSEEN** STRAINS AGAINST HIS UNBREAKABLE CHAINS, HIS EYE WIDENING.



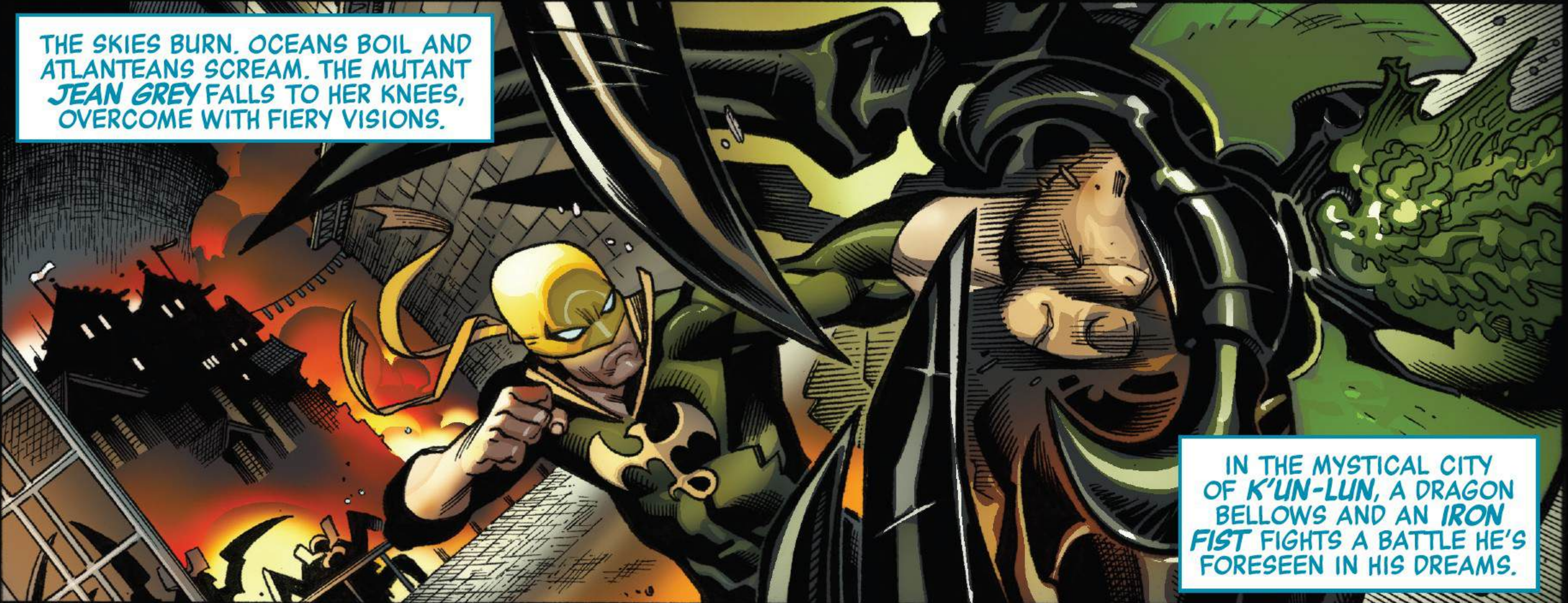
DEEP IN THE MURKY EVERGLADES, THE MONSTROUS GUARDIAN OF THE **NEXUS OF ALL REALITIES** HOWLS A DREADFUL WARNING THAT GOES HOPELESSLY UNHEARD.



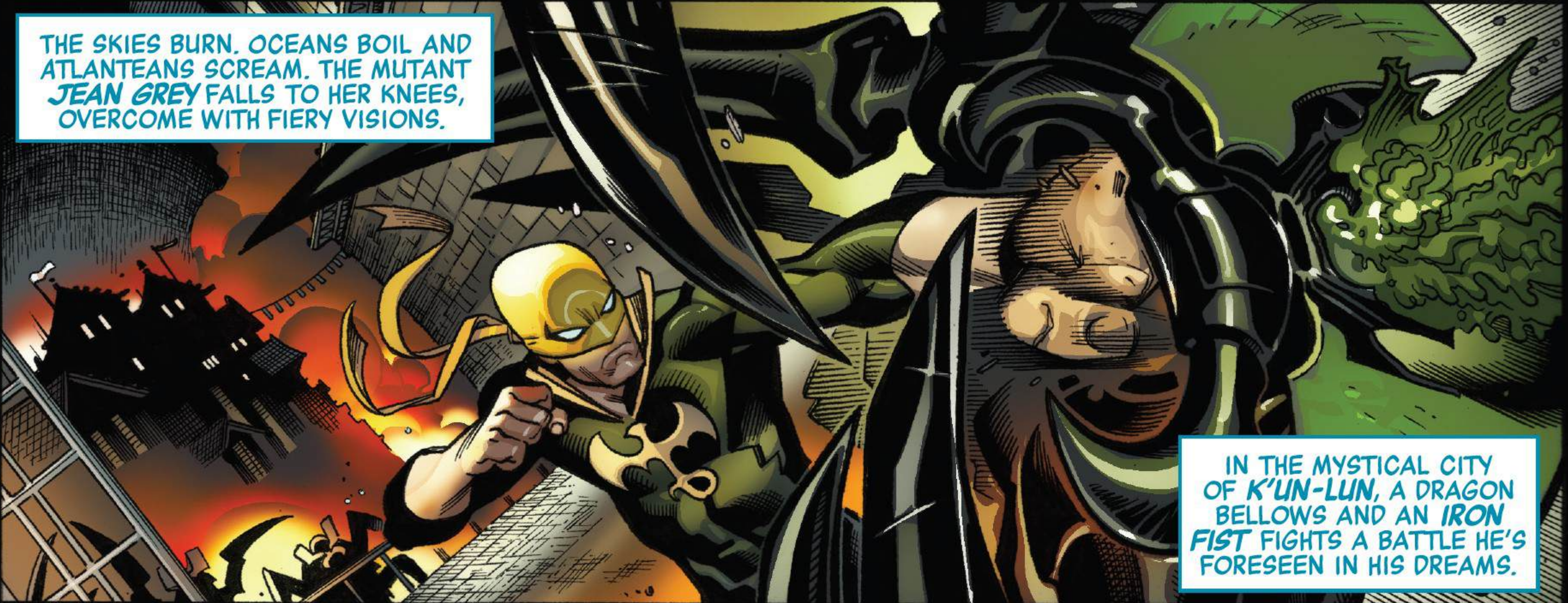
THE VESSEL-LESS **STARBRAND** ROARS THROUGH THE WHITE-HOT ETHER, SEARCHING FRANTICALLY FOR A NEW HOST BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.



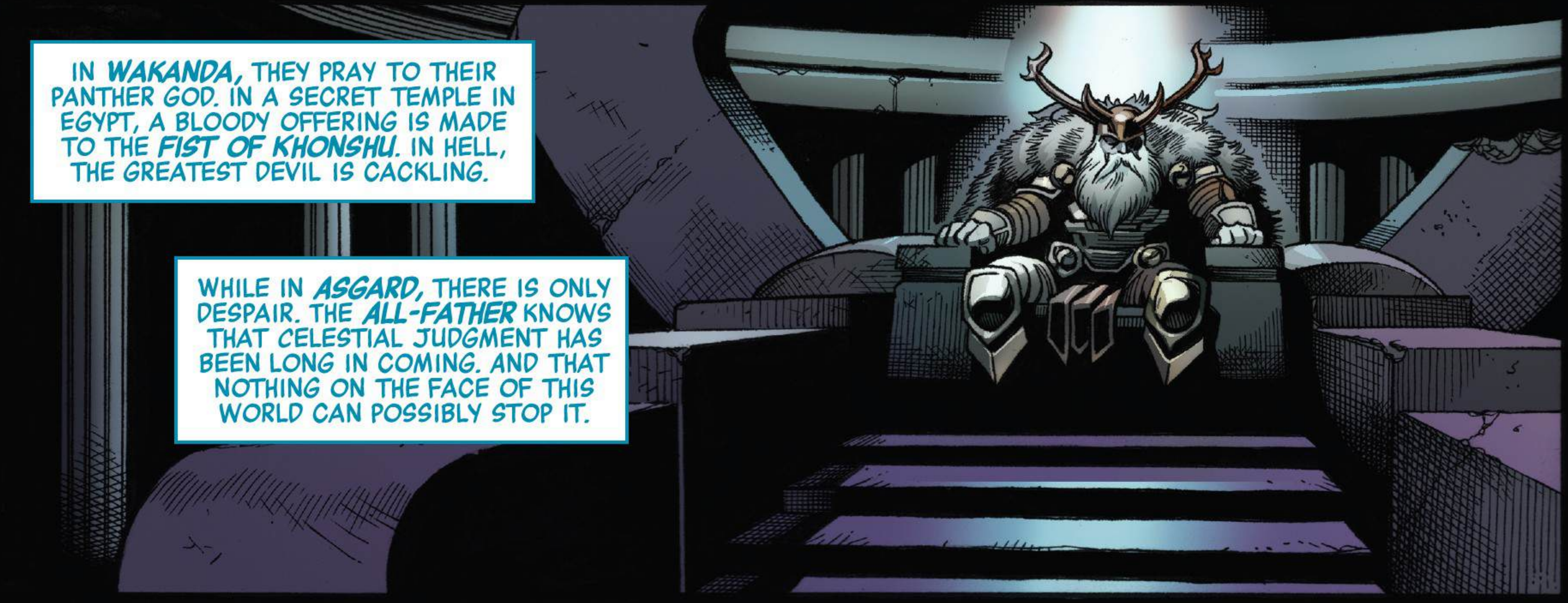
OUT IN THE DEPTHS OF SPACE, THE GREAT LORD OF THE **SHI'AR IMPERIUM** OBSERVES THE EARTH'S PERIL FROM AFAR AND WITH A HEAVY HEART...DOES NOTHING.



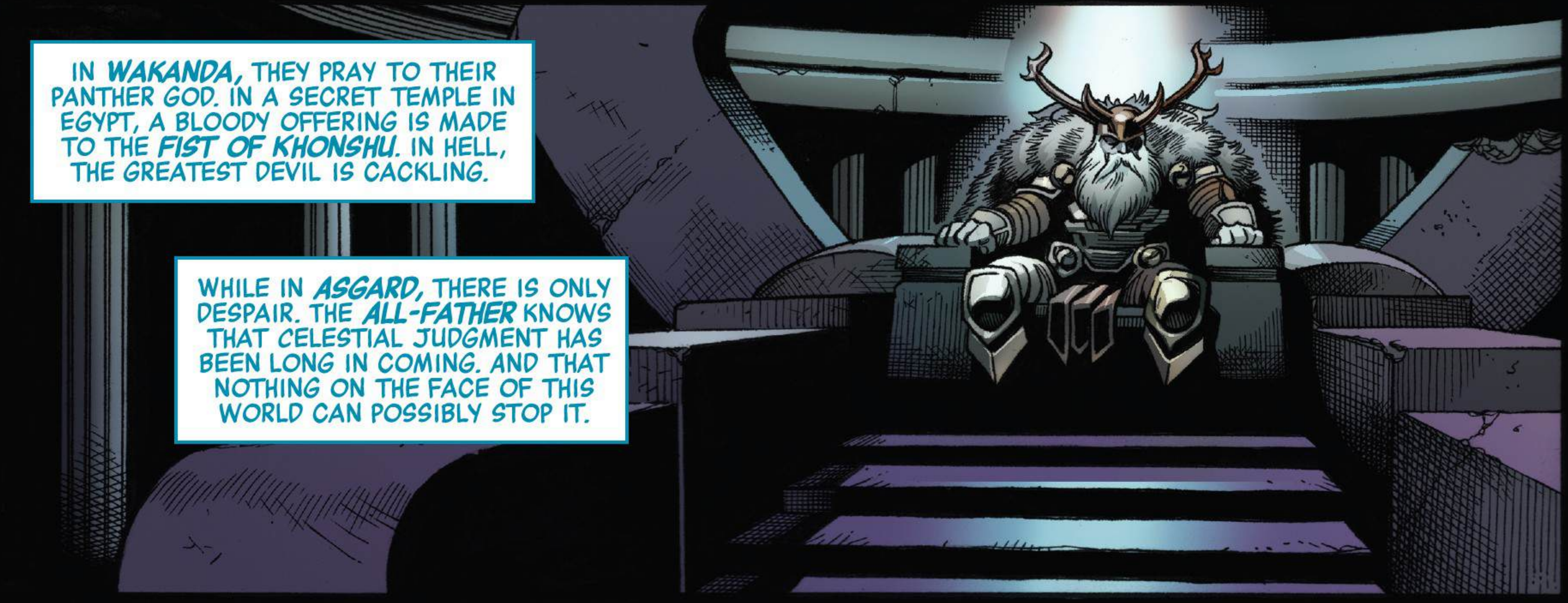
THE SKIES BURN. OCEANS BOIL AND ATLANTEANS SCREAM. THE MUTANT **JEAN GREY** FALLS TO HER KNEES, OVERCOME WITH FIERY VISIONS.



IN THE MYSTICAL CITY OF **K'UN-LUN**, A DRAGON BELLOWS AND AN **IRON FIST** FIGHTS A BATTLE HE'S FORESEEN IN HIS DREAMS.



IN **WAKANDA**, THEY PRAY TO THEIR PANTHER GOD. IN A SECRET TEMPLE IN EGYPT, A BLOODY OFFERING IS MADE TO THE **FIST OF KHONSHU**. IN HELL, THE GREATEST DEVIL IS CACKLING.



WHILE IN **ASGARD**, THERE IS ONLY DESPAIR. THE **ALL-FATHER** KNOWS THAT CELESTIAL JUDGMENT HAS BEEN LONG IN COMING. AND THAT NOTHING ON THE FACE OF THIS WORLD CAN POSSIBLY STOP IT.



SOMEWHERE IN RUSSIA.

BEHOLD THE FINAL HOURS
OF THE GREAT COSMIC
ACCIDENT KNOWN AS EARTH.

BEHOLD A DEFORMED WORLD'S
LAST DESPERATE, TWITCHING
ATTEMPTS TO CLING TO LIFE.

BEHOLD...THE
MIGHTY AVENGERS.

REACTORS
ONE AND TWO
ARE DEPLETED.
POWER LEVELS
AT 75%.

CHARGE ALL
REACTORS. HOLD
NOTHING BACK.

WARNING,
THE RISK OF
THERMONUCLEAR
MELTDOWN IS...

NOT AS
SCARY AS THE
FINAL HOST!
POUR IT ON!

GAAGH, IT'S
LIKE PUNCHING A
MOON. THAT ALSO
PUNCHES BACK.

MOONS CAN
BE SHATTERED,
RIDER OF GHOSTS.
BELIEVE ME, I'VE
SHATTERED MY
SHARE.

JUST KEEP
SMILING!

THIS DAY HAS BEEN SO
CRAZY THAT **GIANT HULK**
HAS ACTUALLY BECOME A
CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION.

NO
TALKING! ONLY
SMASHING!



THIS IS ACTUALLY WORKING! WE'RE HURTING THEM!

THE HORDE ARE FRIGHTENED. YOU CAN SEE IT IN THE WAY THEIR MANDIBLES TWITCH.

THEN WE'VE GOT THEM WHERE WE WANT THEM. DOMINATE, AVENGERS! MAKE THEM NEVER WANT TO SET FOOT ON OUR PLANET AGAIN!



YOUR PLAN IS COMING APART AT THE SEAMS, LOKI. JUST LIKE WHEN YOU TRIED TO REPLACE ME AS *SORCERER SUPREME*.

FOR SOMEONE WITH AN ALL-SEEING EYE, YOU CAN STILL BE AWFULLY NEARSIGHTED, STEPHEN. WHY DO YOU THINK I WANTED YOUR PETTY MANTLE IN THE FIRST PLACE?

THE TRUTH HAD TO BE REVEALED! ABOUT YOU PEOPLE AND YOUR ENTIRE PERVERTED WORLD!

A TRUTH YOU'RE STILL NOT READY TO FACE!

"A TRUTH THAT WILL EAT YOU ALIVE!"

HRRRRRGHH!!!



TASTE LIKE
BOMB IN MOUTH.
HULK WANT
MORE!

YOU HEARD
THE LADY! TIME
FOR A GOOD OLD-
FASHIONED EAST
L.A. BARBECUE!

FWOOOSH!

FINALLY,
STARK, YOU HAVE
A BODY TO MATCH
THE SIZE OF YOUR
EGO! AND I HAVE A
HAMMER THE SIZE OF
A BATTLESHIP!
HA!

YOU'RE ENJOYING
THIS WAY TOO
MUCH, THOR.

REACTORS
FIVE THROUGH
SEVEN ARE...

DIDN'T YOU
HEAR THE HULK,
MOTHERBOARD?

NO
TALKING! ONLY
REPULSORING!

RRRRRRGGGGH!!!

KATTHOOOOOOOOOM

WOW, WE
ACTUALLY KNOCKED
DOWN OBLITERON.

YEAH, AND LEVELED
HALF OF SIBERIA.
WAIT, GHOST RIDER,
YOU KNOW
THEIR NAMES?

THE LONGER
I'M...INSIDE THIS
CELESTIAL, THE MORE
I SEE...AND KNOW. THE
ONE ON FIRE IS **VALKNAR**
THE EXHUMER. THIS
CHARMER IS...**CALLUS**
THE VOID.

THEY'RE THE
LEADERS OF THE
FINAL HOST. AND IF WE
DON'T STOP THEM HERE
AND NOW, THE HORDE
WILL KEEP MAKING
MORE OF--

GAGGH!

THAT HEADBUTT
JUST SHATTERED EVERY
WINDOW FOR A THOUSAND
MILES! WE MAY BE THEIR
SIZE, BUT WE'RE NOT ON
THEIR POWER LEVEL!

SPEAK FOR
THYSELF, STARK!
HRRRGH!!!



THUNDER AND FIRE AND
LASER BEAMS AND BIG GREEN
PUNCHES. IT'S NOT ENOUGH.
IT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH TO
SAVE THE WORLD.

HOW DO WE
DO IT THIS TIME?
HOW DO WE...

YEAH, SURE,
LET ME TRY IT
WITH JUST ONE
ARM. THAT'LL BE A
FUN CHALLENGE.



THANKS FOR
THE *HAND*, TONY.
BUT I THINK WE'VE
GOT THESE BUGS
UNDER CONTROL.

I'M AFRAID
MY SENSORS SAY
OTHERWISE, CAROL.
ENERGY LEVELS ARE
SPIKING. READY
YOURSELVES, MY
FRIENDS.

T'CHALLA,
YOU SAID THE
CENTER OF THE EARTH
WAS FILLED WITH THESE
BUG COCOONS. HOW
MANY ARE WE
TALKING?

ABOUT
THAT MANY,
CAPTAIN!

"JUDGING BY THESE READINGS, THE HORDE IS EXPLODING FROM THE GROUND ALL OVER THE WORLD. WHATEVER THEIR FINAL PLAN IS HERE..."

"...I'D SAY THIS IS IT."

"I THINK YOU'RE ALL QUITE FINISHED."

HULK NOT AFRAID OF SPACE MAN WHO GOES BOOM!

HULK STRONGEST BOMB THERE IS!

DON'T FEAR THE HORDE, DOCTOR STRANGE. AFTER ALL, WITHOUT THEM, YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE.

YOU'D STILL BE A SINGLE-CELLED AMOEBA FLOATING IN A PUDDLE OF SLIME.

THAT'S WHAT YOUR FACE WILL BE...WHEN I'M FINISHED WITH--
GAGGH!!!

OH, I THINK WE ARE FINISHED, DOCTOR.

BOOOOM

HE VOMITS
FLAMING BUGS!
GAGGH, I CAN'T...
I CAN'T DEAL
WITH THIS!

GUARDIAN
OF THE NEXUS OF
ALL REALITIES IS HOWLING.
BLOODY OFFERING
BEING MADE TO THE FIST
OF KHONSHU. THE
STARBRAND
ROARING.

EYES WATCHING
FROM BEYOND THE
RAW VOID BETWEEN
DIMENSIONS. NIGHT AND
NUCLEAR DECAY AND ALL
THE COLORS OF RAGE.
I SEE...EVERYTHING
NOW. I...

I THINK
MY BRAIN IS
BURNING.

TO HELL WITH IT. I'LL
FLY THIS GUY INTO
SPACE AND BLOW
THE WHOLE SUIT.

DON'T BE A
FOOL, TONY!

I'M NOT,
STEVE. I'M BEING
AN AVENGER. IF WE
TAKE OUT ONE, MAYBE
THE OTHERS WILL
TURN TAIL AND...

HEY,
WHOA,
WHAT'S...

IN THE HIDDEN WILDS OF THE **SAVAGE LAND**, THE DINOSAURS ARE WAILING, FOR THEY KNOW EXTINCTION WHEN THEY SEE IT.

IN THE HALLS OF THE **HELLFIRE CLUB**, FLESH IS BARED AND A FINAL TOAST IS RAISED.

OH DAMN.

THE NINJAS OF THE **HAND** BURY THEIR BLADES IN THEIR BELLIES.

DEEP IN THE TOMBS OF **CASTLE DRACUL**, EVEN THE UNDEAD LORD OF THE DAMNED KNOWS FEAR.

THE **EBONY BLADE** IS BLEEDING.

IN A RUSSIAN GULAG, A **BEAR-MAN** GUZZLES VODKA AND LAUGHS.

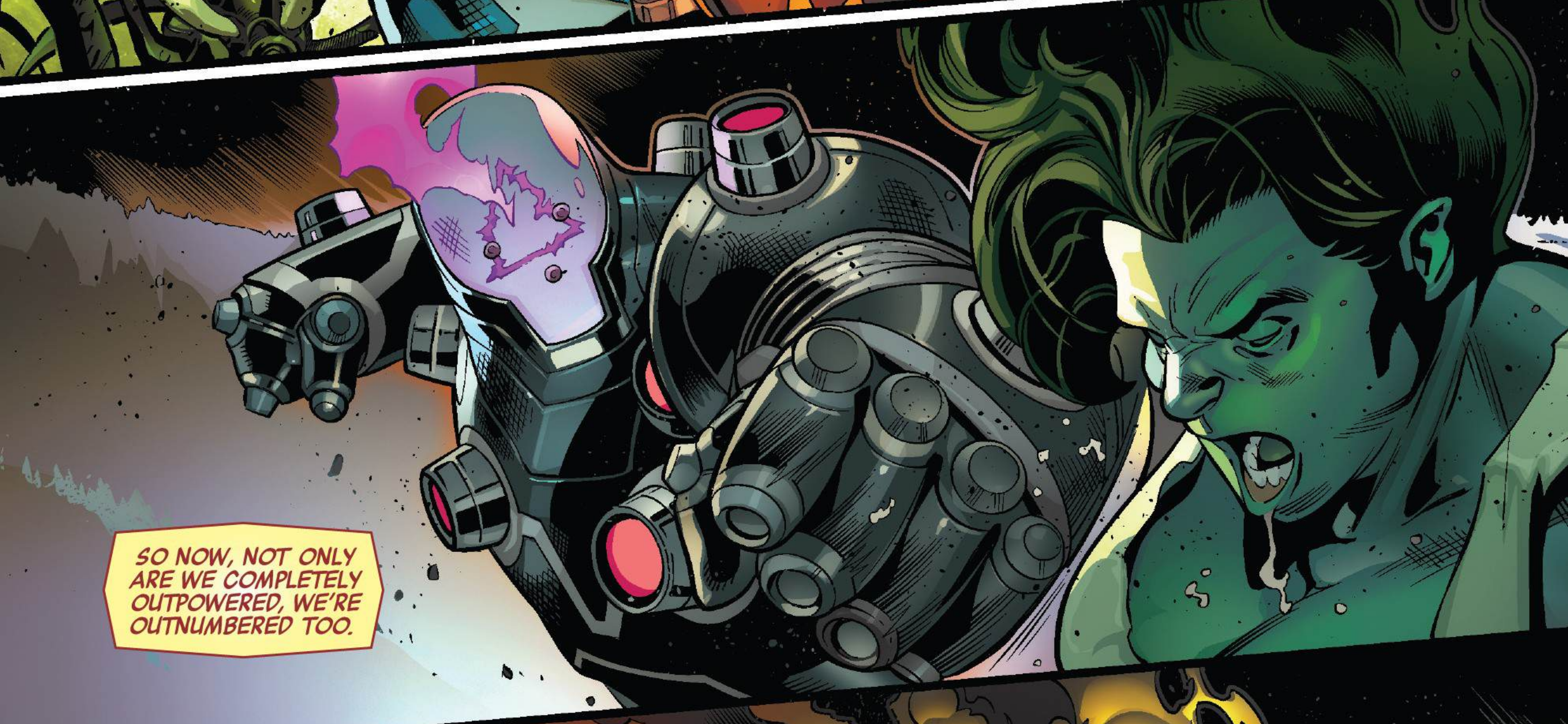


HEY, GUYS, REMEMBER ALL THOSE OTHER DEAD CELESTIALS? WELL, THEY'RE ZOMBIES NOW.

GAH! TOO MANY!

ALPHA FLIGHT, READY ALL PLANETARY ESCAPE PODS! PREPARE TO EVACUATE THE EARTH!

THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING WE'RE MISSING. I REFUSE TO ACCEPT A PUZZLE THAT CANNOT BE SOLVED!



SO NOW, NOT ONLY ARE WE COMPLETELY OUTPOWERED, WE'RE OUTNUMBERED TOO.



YAY! THE MAGIC IS WEARING OFF! I'M SHRINKING!

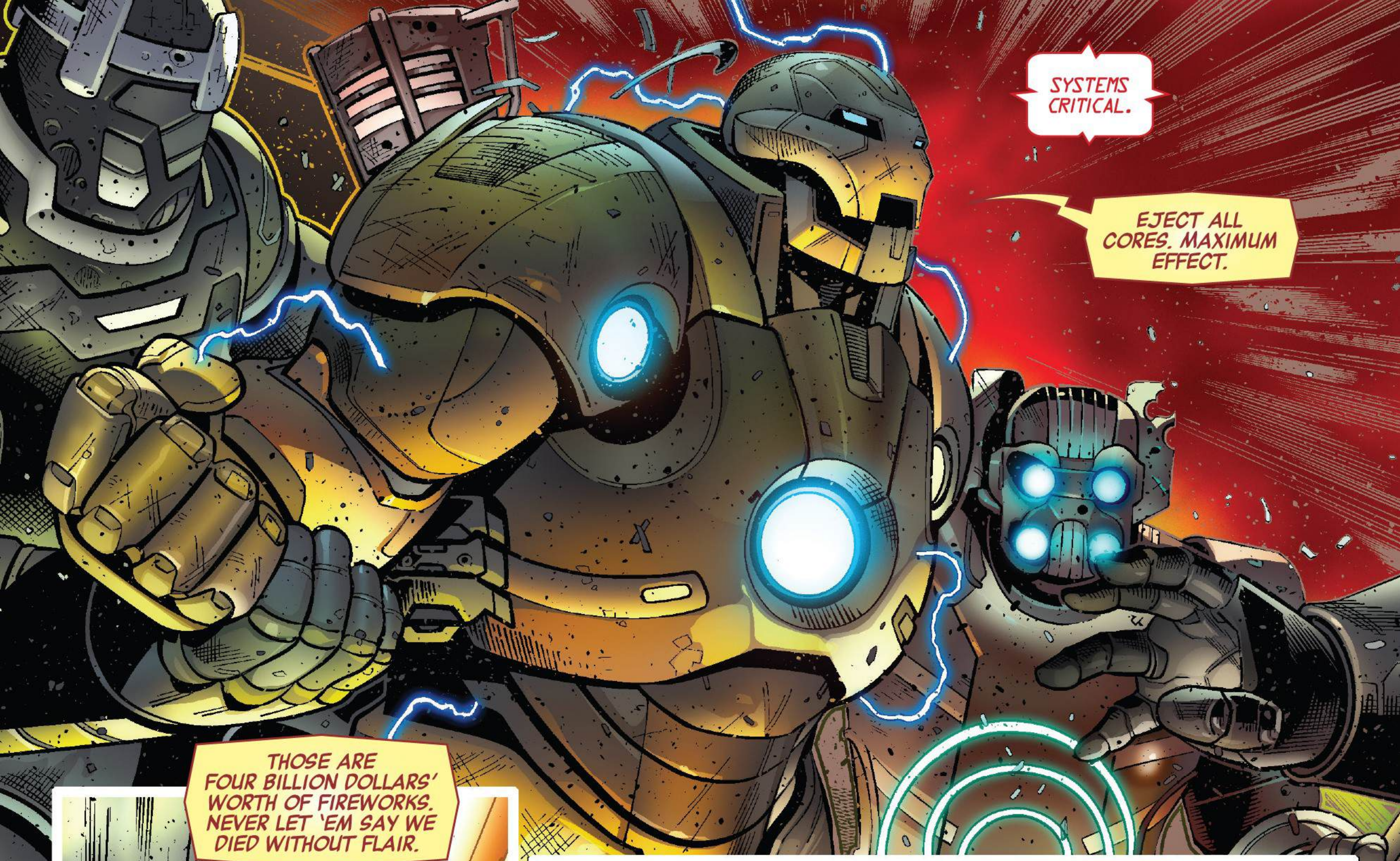
IF ANYONE HAS A HAIL MARY PASS, NOW'S THE TIME TO THROW IT.



WE...WE ARE ALL GOD'S VOMIT. WE ARE...

GRRRRRGGGHHH!!!

ANYBODY?



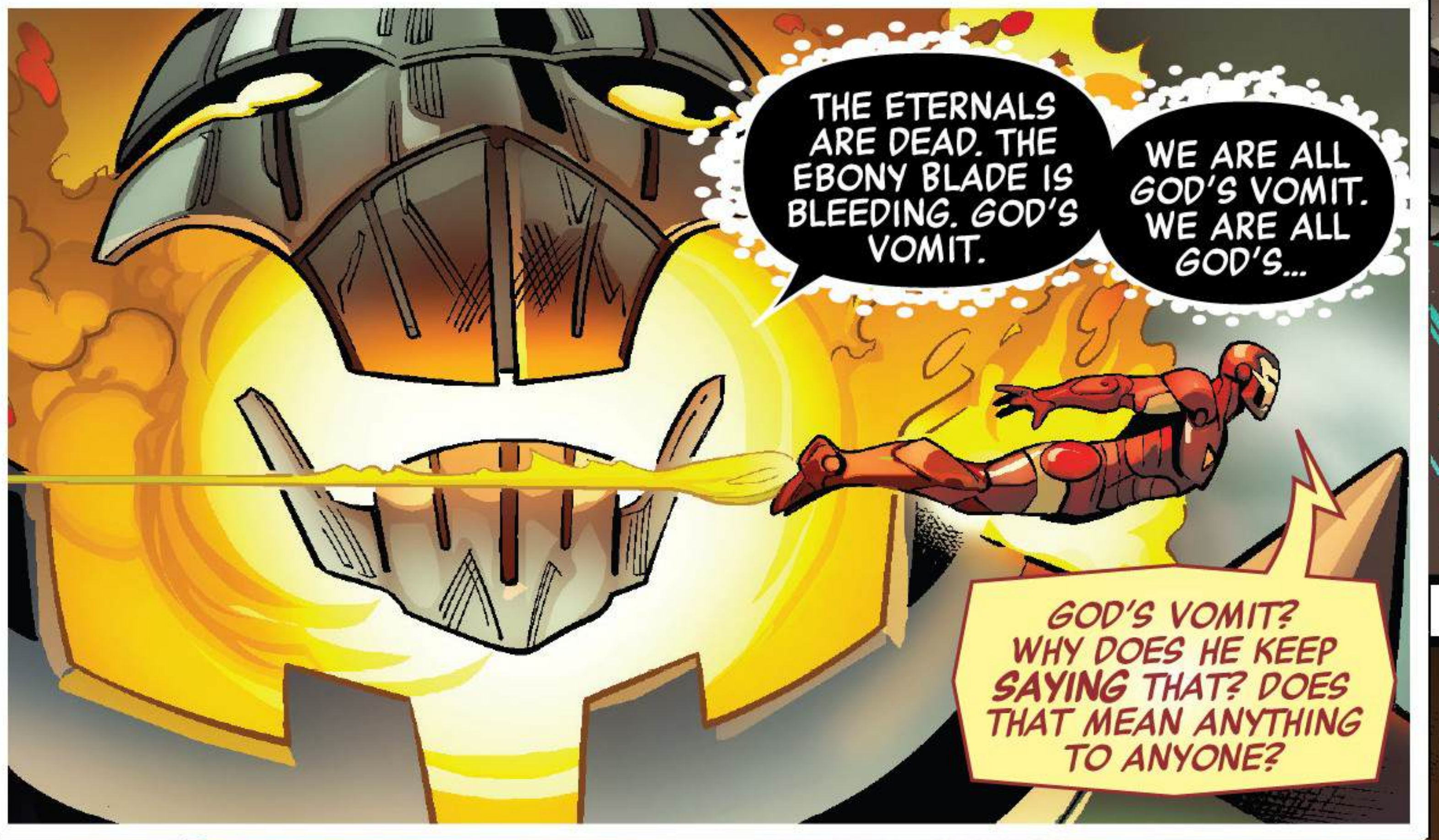
SYSTEMS
CRITICAL.

EJECT ALL
CORES. MAXIMUM
EFFECT.

THOSE ARE
FOUR BILLION DOLLARS'
WORTH OF FIREWORKS.
NEVER LET 'EM SAY WE
DIED WITHOUT FLAIR.

THE HORDE.
THE CELESTIALS.
THE PREHISTORIC
HEROES. ALL THE
PIECES FIT TOGETHER,
BUT THERE'S
SOMETHING
MISSING.

I'M ALL
EARS,
T'CHALLA.



THE ETERNALS
ARE DEAD. THE
EBONY BLADE IS
BLEEDING. GOD'S
VOMIT.

WE ARE ALL
GOD'S VOMIT.
WE ARE ALL
GOD'S...

GOD'S VOMIT?
WHY DOES HE KEEP
SAYING THAT? DOES
THAT MEAN ANYTHING
TO ANYONE?

IT'S A
STORY THAT LOKI
TOLD WHEN I WAS
HIS PRISONER. THAT
LIFE ON EARTH IS THE
RESULT OF A DYING
CELESTIAL. THE FIRST
CELESTIAL TO EVER BE
INFECTED WITH
THE HORDE.

IF THAT'S
TRUE, THEN...
IT COULD EXPLAIN
EVERYTHING UNUSUAL
ABOUT THIS WORLD.
INCLUDING ALL
OF US.

WE ARE
THE EARTH'S
INFECTION.

LIKE
HERPES. ONLY
CUTER.





THE HORDE IS A DISEASE THAT FELS CELESTIALS! YET WHEN THE FIRST HOST CAME A MILLION YEARS AGO, THEY DID NOT CLEANSE THE EARTH WHEN THEY COULD HAVE! MY FATHER WAS THERE!

RRRGH! THIS WHAT SPACE GODS FEAR MOST!

LIKE JEN-NI-FER! FEAR...LOSING CONTROL! FEAR THE HORDE!

SO WHY LEAVE THIS WORLD ALIVE? ALIVE AND INFECTED WITH THE THING THAT COULD KILL THEM?

BECAUSE THEY SAW THE POTENTIAL IN US, TONY. THEY KNEW WHAT WE'D **BECOME**. SOMETHING THAT COULD BEAT THE HORDE FOR THEM, ONCE AND FOR ALL.

OH SNAP. BEAT IT...

...BY BECOMING IT.

IT'S CALLED... A LIVE VIRUS VACCINE.



THE CELESTIALS
NEEDED A CURE FOR
THE HORDE. THEY SAW
THAT HUMANITY HAD
THE POTENTIAL TO
DEVELOP ONE.

AND AFTER
A FEW MILLIONS OF
YEARS OF SIMMERING
IN A CAULDRON
OF INFECTION AND
ROTTING CELESTIAL,
WE DID.

THAT
CURE IS
US.



THE EARTH IS A
PLANET OF LIVING
PATHOGENS.

IT'S WHY
HUMANITY HAS THE
CAPACITY FOR
MUTAGENESIS AND
SUPERHUMAN CHANGE
BAKED INTO OUR GENETIC
CODE. SO WE CAN
ADAPT AND CANCEL
OUT THE HORDE.

GREAT!
SO JUST
TELL ME HOW
TO BEAT
THEM!



IF WE CAN
SOMEHOW
COMBINE OUR
POWERS, WE
CAN--

UUUGH!

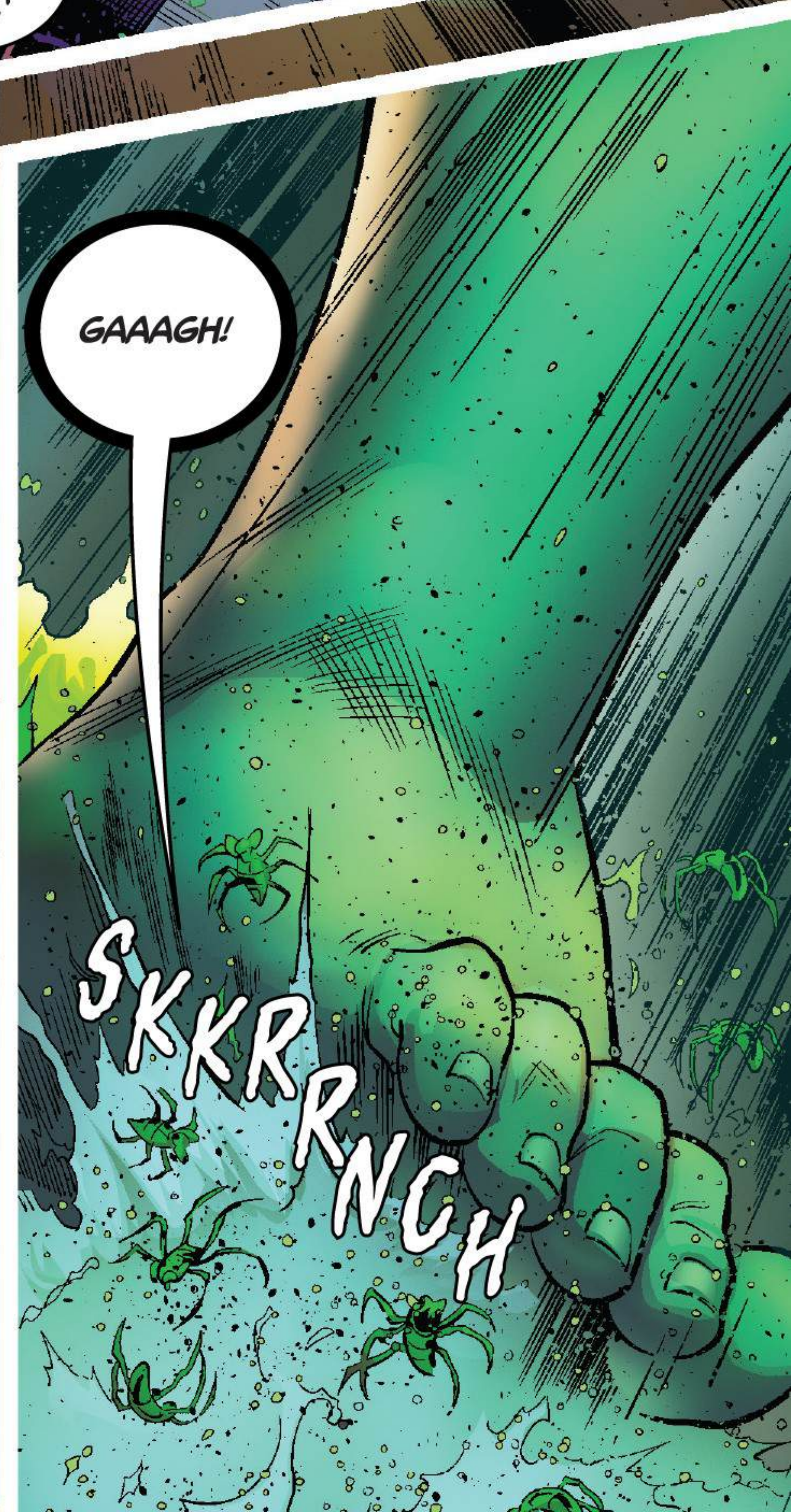
BRAVO,
AVENGERS. IT'S
SO GREAT TO
SEE YOU FINALLY
ACCEPTING THE
WRETCHED TRUTH OF
YOUR EXISTENCE.
WHICH IS JUST
WHAT I'VE BEEN
TRYING TO TELL
YOU ALL
ALONG.



YOU AND
ALL YOUR KIND
ARE THE **BASEST**
BACTERIA.

MOVING THROUGH
LIFE LIKE HUMAN **GANGRENE**,
LEAVING EVERYTHING
SHRIVELED AND ROTTING IN YOUR
WAKE, LEAVING YOUR OWN WORLD
A LEPROUS RUIN, GASPING
FOR AIR WITH BLACKENED
LUNGS.

BUT **NO MORE**. YOU
THINK YOU'RE THE CURE FOR
THE HORDE? WELL, LOKI IS THE
CURE FOR **YOU!** AND I'VE GOT
JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR
ORDERED TO...



GAAAGH!

SKKR
RNCH



GO AHEAD
AND TAKE A
DIP, LOKI. THE
BUG GUTS ARE
NICE AND
WARM.

OKAY,
SO WE'RE THE
CURE? NOW WHAT?
HOW DO WE FEED
THEM THEIR
MEDICINE?

WE HAVE
TO CHANNEL THE
HORDE'S OWN ENERGIES
AND OVERLOAD THEM WITH
A CONCENTRATED DOSE
OF ALL OUR POWERS.

GIVE ME A LAB
AND FIFTEEN MINUTES,
AND I COULD MAKE THAT
HAPPEN, BUT I DON'T
THINK WE HAVE THAT
KIND OF--

WAIT!

KILL.
me.



ONLY THE
UNI-MIND CAN
STOP THEM.

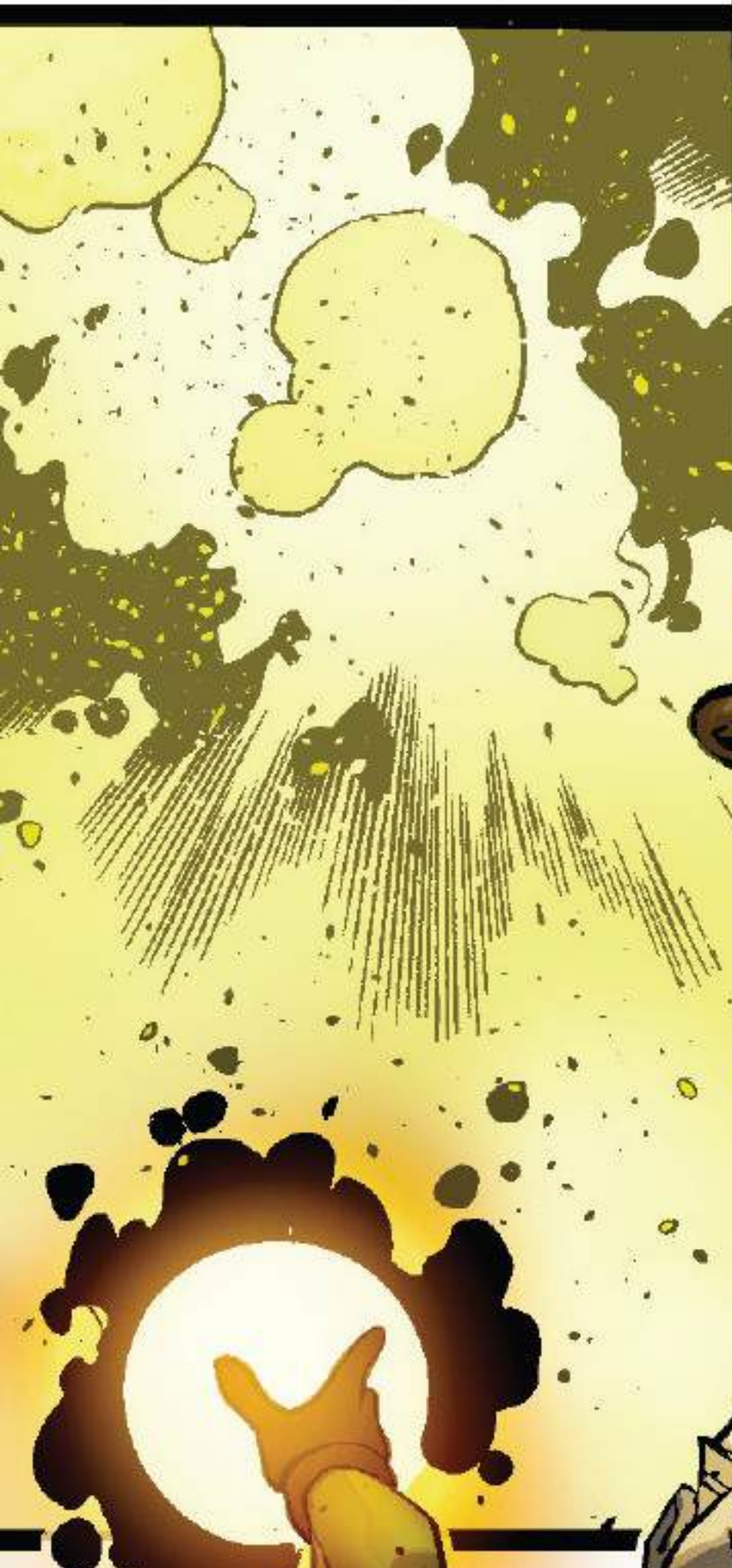
ONLY
YOU CAN BE
THE CURE.

THE UNI-
MIND!

OKAY, LISTEN UP,
EVERYBODY--I KNOW THIS
IS GONNA SOUND REALLY
HIPPIE-ISH AND KUMBAYA,
BUT IF WE'RE GONNA SAVE
THE WORLD, WE ALL HAVE
TO BE OF ONE MIND.

LITERALLY.

IKARIS OF THE
ETERNALS PUT THE SECRETS
OF THE UNI-MIND INTO MY
BRAIN BEFORE HE DIED! IT'S
AN ANCIENT METHOD THE
ETERNALS USE TO COMBINE
THEIR ENERGIES!



UGH, GOD, IF
THIS IS A SEX JOKE,
I'LL PERSONALLY PUT
YOU BACK IN
YOUR COMA.

HULK DO
WHAT STARK SAY!
BUT KNOW THAT
HULK MIND SCARIER
THAN HORDE!

IF WE FALL,
WE FALL TOGETHER.
HOW DOES IT WORK,
STARK?

AND SO THE AVENGERS
JOIN FORCES
AS NEVER BEFORE.
LINKING MINDS.
SHARING THOUGHTS.

COMBINING
THEIR POWERS.

IT IS UNCOMFORTABLE
FOR ALL. NEARLY
INTOLERABLE FOR SOME.

WAIT...
THOR AND
HULK REALLY
DID MAKE
OUT?

OH GOD,
I CAN'T STOP
SEEING IT.

BUT FOR THE
AVENGER AT
THE HEART
OF IT ALL...

YOU CAN
DO THIS! I
BELIEVE IN
YOU!

TIME TO
SAVE THE WORLD,
ROBBIE!

...IT IS
THE SINGLE
GREATEST
MOMENT OF
HIS LIFE.



THE EBONY
BLADE IS BLEEDING!
WHATEVER THAT IS!

AND MY
BROTHER GABE IS
HOME ALONE IN HILLROCK
HEIGHTS! AND HE'S
SCARED!

#\$%&
THAT!

NOBODY
MESSES WITH
MY BROTHER!

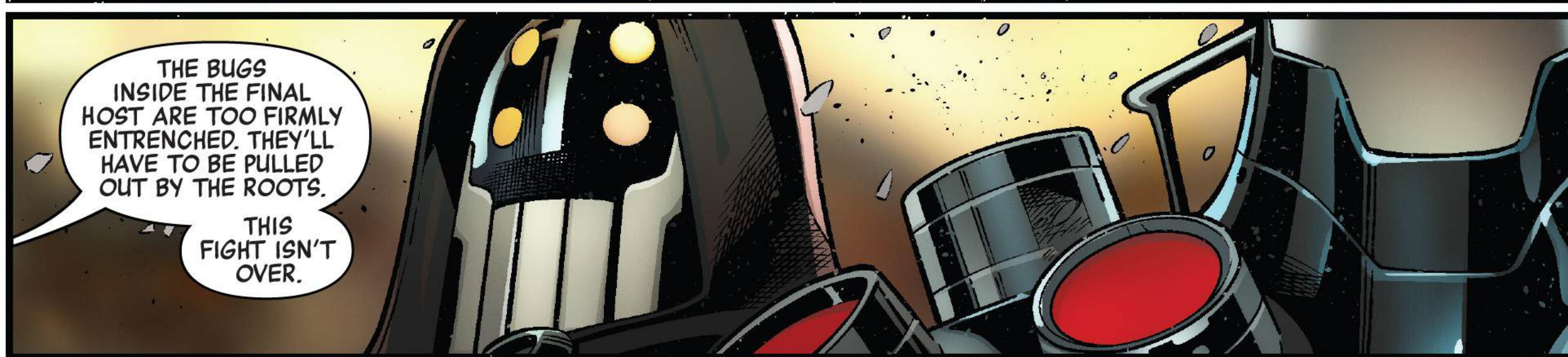


GOD,
THEY'RE
DOING IT
AGAIN!



DON'T SUPPOSE
YOU'D WANNA
MEND FENCES BY...

GO
TO HELL,
STARK!





**AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE!**



IN THE SKIES, THE FIRES FADE.
THE OCEANS GROW CALM. THE
PILLARS OF ATILAN SHAKE AS
BLACK BOLT SIGHS IN RELIEF.

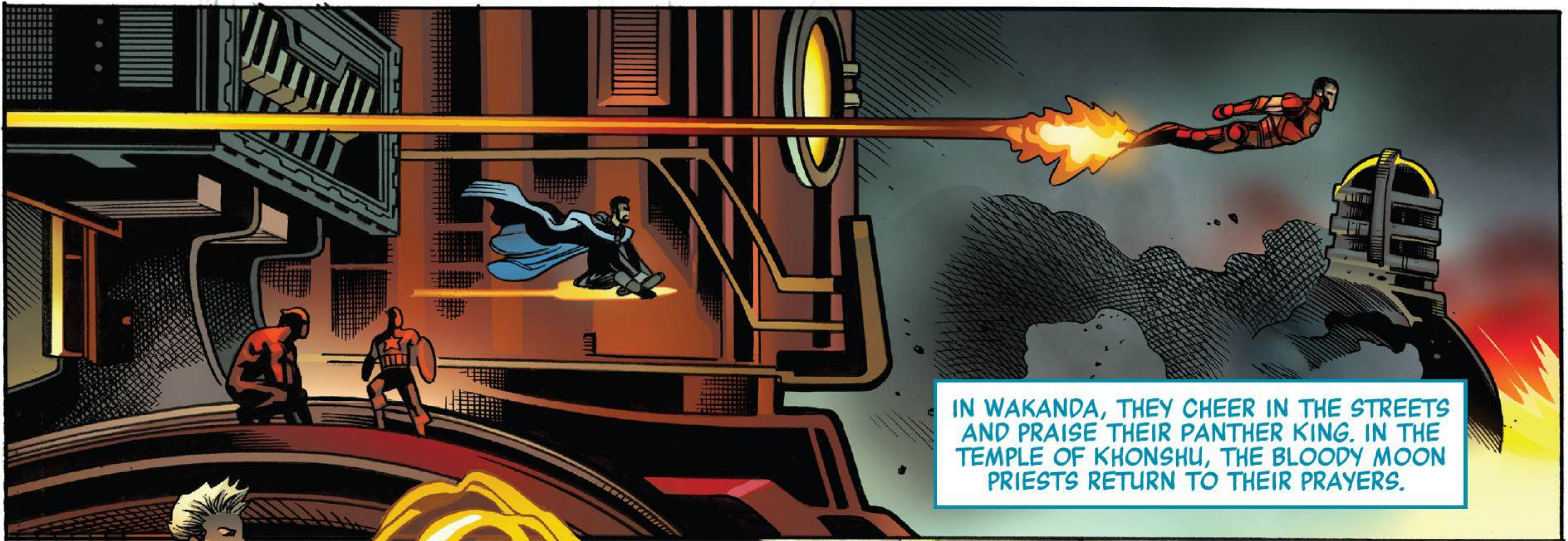
THE GUARDIAN OF THE
NEXUS OF ALL REALITIES
LUMBERS BACK
INTO HIS SWAMP.

IN THE DEPTHS OF ASGARD,
THE ALL-FATHER DOES
SOMETHING HE HASN'T DONE
IN MANY YEARS. HE *SMILES*.

THEY DID
IT, MY LADY.
THEY REDEEMED
THE VERY FIRST
OF OUR SINS.

FOR A FLEETING
MOMENT, AT LEAST.

LET US
HOPE THEY
NEVER LEARN
OF THE
REST.



IN WAKANDA, THEY CHEER IN THE STREETS AND PRAISE THEIR PANTHER KING. IN THE TEMPLE OF KHONSHU, THE BLOODY MOON PRIESTS RETURN TO THEIR PRAYERS.



THE EBONY BLADE GOES COLD AND STILL AS THE GRAVE.

AND AS THE DARK CELESTIALS FALL AROUND HIM AND THE CHAINS OF CYTTORAK GRIP HIM EVER TIGHTER, THE PRINCE OF LIES BEHOLDS HIS UTTER DEFEAT, AND RATHER UNEXPECTEDLY...



...BEAMS WITH PRIDE.

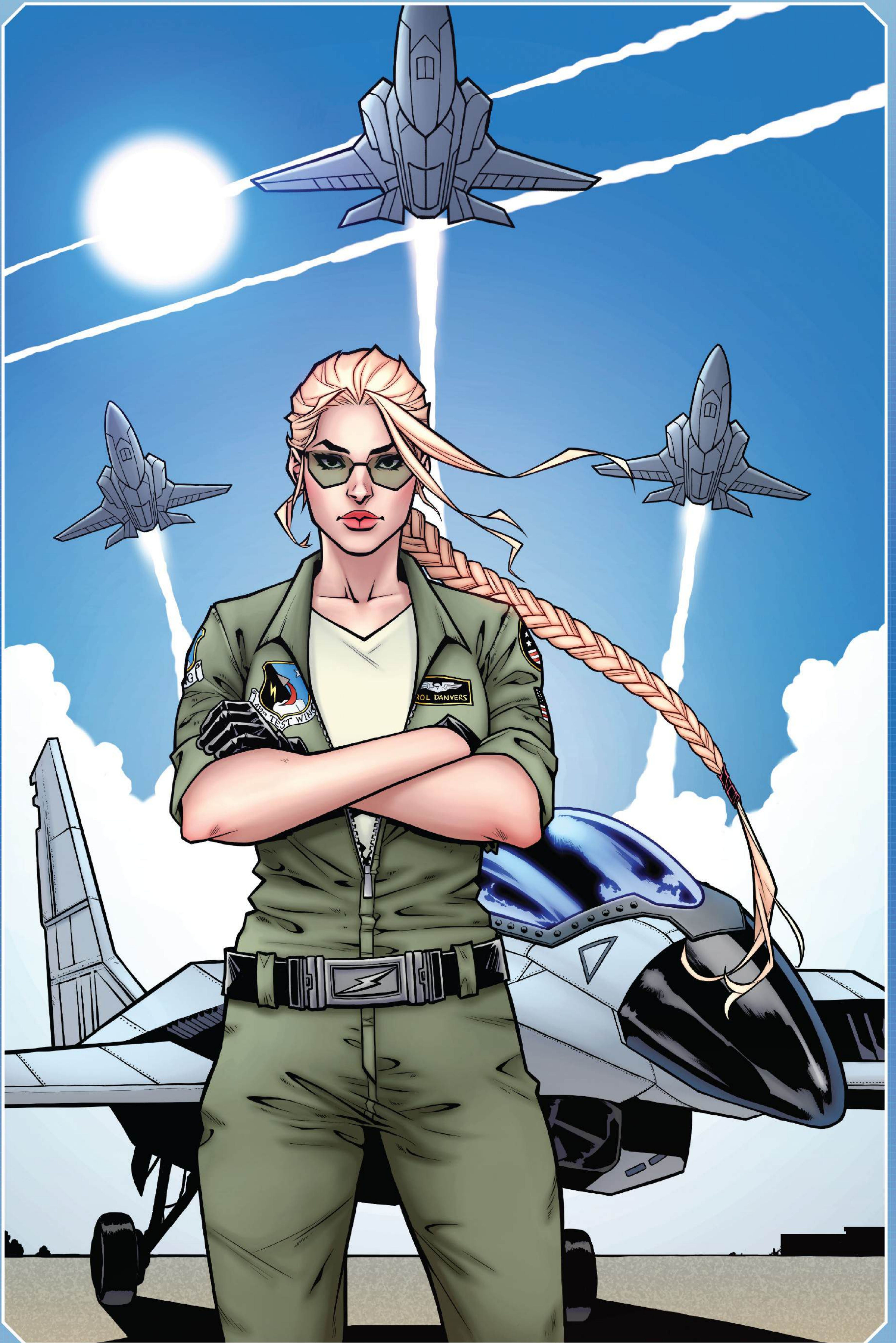
HEH. WELCOME BACK, AVENGERS.



DAVID MARQUEZ & JUSTIN PONSOR
2 VARIANT COVER



ARTHUR ADAMS & MORRY HOLLOWELL
3 VARIANT COVER



KATE NIEMCZYK
4 CAROL DANVERS 50TH ANNIVERSARY VARIANT COVER

“You can’t help but feel as though you’re going to be in for an incredibly wild ride.”

— All-Comic

A NEW ERA FOR *EARTH’S MIGHTIEST HEROES!*

STEVE ROGERS. TONY STARK. THOR ODINSON. The big three are reunited at last — and just in time to save the world from the 2,000-foot-tall space gods known as the Celestials! Behold the coming of the Final Host! But who will answer the call as a new team of Avengers assembles? As Black Panther and Doctor Strange battle for their lives deep within the earth, Captain Marvel faces death and destruction raining down from the skies. And what about the Savage She-Hulk and the all-new Ghost Rider? Plus: No gathering of Avengers would be complete without a certain Prince of Lies! But what world-shaking connection exists between the Dark Celestials and Odin’s ancient band of Prehistoric Avengers?



COLLECTING **AVENGERS (2018) #1-6** AND MATERIAL FROM
FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2018 (AVENGERS/CAPTAIN AMERICA) —

BY JASON AARON, ED MCGUINNESS, PACO MEDINA, SARA PICHELLI, MARK MORALES,
JUAN VLASCO, JAY LEISTEN, KARL STORY, ELIZABETTA D'AMICO, DAVID CUIEL AND JUSTIN PONSOR.

T+

MARVEL